FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-046
Thursday
11 March 1993

Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-93-046 11 March 1993

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Palestinian Affairs

Delegation 'May Not Insist' on Deportee Return

TA1003161993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks refused to receive the invitation to the round of talks scheduled for next month in Washington. At the end of a meeting with the U.S. consul and a representative of the Russian Embassy, delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi said the Palestinian delegates had announced that they would not return to the talks until the obstacles are removed, mainly the problem of the deportees.

On the other hand, Faysal al-Husayni has stated in London that the Palestinian delegation may not insist on the return of all 400 deportees at once. According to him, the Palestinians will suffice with an Israeli declaration about its readiness to allow the return of the deportees and to abstain from deportations in the future. Under such conditions the delegation will agree to return to the negotiating table, al-Husayni said.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Explains Invitation Rejection

JN1003173393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Tunis Muhammad Kurayshan has asked Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and member of the PLO Executive Committee, about the reasons behind the Palestinians' rejection of the invitation to the peace talks. He said:

[Begin recording] The Palestinian delegation did not receive today the invitation to resume the bilateral talks because we requested clarifications from the U.S. Administration, and so far, we have received no response. We requested clarifications, in particular, on the deportations, Jerusalem, and the point of reference for the talks. Until we receive such clarifications, the Palestinian position will remain as it is. [end recording]

'Urayqat: Invitations 'Complicate Matters'

TA1003191393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Yoni Ben-Menahem; in Jerusalem on 10 March—recorded]

[Text] ['Urayqat] I believe that the mere fact that the United States and Russia decided to issue invitations before addressing the deportee issue and during the deliberations with the U.S. Administration over the six Palestinian points can be interprerid in one way only. [words indistinct]

[Ben-Menahem] How do you see the scenario on 19 April? How will the Palestinian and the Arab states' decision be?

['Urayqat] In fact, there is agreement between the participating Arab parties—Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine—to meet and coordinate among themselves before each round. No Arab party has ever responded to an invitation before an Arab coordinating meeting. This was a unanimous decision, but this time the Palestinian sides' position has been publicly declared, namely, that it cannot participate under the present circumstances. That is it cannot participate before Israel's commitment to Resolution 799 and before Rabin announces that there will be no deportations in the future. The fact that the invitations have been sent now will complicate matters instead of solving them.

[Ben-Menahem] Some people are saying that you are waiting for Rabin's meeting with Clinton next week in order to solve the deportee issue, then the Palestinian decision will be made.

['Urayqat] No. In fact, U.S.-Palestinian contacts have been underway since the first day of the deportation operation. Those contacts did not stop whether when we were in Washington or here.

[Ben-Menahem] Is there a solution in the horizon?

['Urayqat] We have tried and continue to try, but matters have reached a stage where Rabin says that if and when the Palestinian side agrees to attend the ninth round, he will adopt some measures. Namely, he wants us to buy the fish before we see them, before he catches them. Consequently, I do not wish to say that there is a complete deadlock, but the issue now is very complicated.

[Ben-Menahem] What are the terms for Palestinian participation in the talks?

['Urayqat] I believe there will be no Palestinian participation without an official and public commitment by Rabin that he will not embark on any deportation operation in the future.

Progress on 'Any Negotiations Track' Welcomed

TA1103080193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian advisory committee, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning to Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, who is an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

[Abu-Zayyad] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] There have been reports that the Palestinian rejection of the invitation to participate in the next

round of talks was not unequivocal or, at least, that there were differences of opinion among delegation members as to what conditions must be met to enable their participation.

[Abu-Zayyad] No. The situation is like this: The Palestinian people have a political leadership that will make the ultimate decision on whether to attend the talks; however, several factors must be taken into consideration. The first is the legitimacy of the Palestinian delegation in the eyes of the people. Then there is the general situation in the occupied territories. It is difficult to imagine or believe that the Palestinian delegation is capable of participating in the negotiations while the threat of deportation continues to hang over the head of every Palestinian or while the current policy of brutal repression continues in the occupied territories.

[Zissowitz] What exactly has to happen to get you back to the negotiating table? Are we talking about some sort of Israeli declaration regarding the use of deportation or is it something more than that?

[Abu-Zayyad] It must be guaranteed in principle that Israel will not resort to the use of deportations against Palestinians again. A principle must be set that this measure is completely out of the question under any circumstances and will never be used against the Palestinians.

[Zissowitz] In other words, you are demanding an explicit Israeli commitment not to employ this punishment again?

[Abu-Zayyad] Yes. In my opinion, however, the deportation itself is not the only problem. There is a wider problem and that is Israel's behavior in the occupied territories.

[Zissowitz] Would the Palestinian delegation be ready in principle to declare a halt to terrorist activity in return for such an Israeli declaration?

[Abu-Zayyad] It is not so easy to stop terrorist activity. One must understand that there is both organized and individual activity. It is impossible to control violence perpetrated by individuals, and this is something neither the security forces nor the people here are capable of doing.

[Zissowitz] But Mr. Abu-Zayyad, some acts of terrorism are carried out by Fatah members. For example, the recent stabbing at Ganey Tal was perpetrated by the Fatah Hawks.

[Abu-Zayyad] I said that some actions were carried out by individuals regardless of their affiliation. These people act of their own volition, and it is impossible to know in advance what they are thinking of or what they intend to do.

[Zissowitz] But some acts of terror are instigated by the Palestinian national leadership.

[Abu-Zayyad] Whatever is directed by the Palestinian national leadership could perhaps be controlled, directed, or even halted. As long as Israel pursues its current policy inside the occupied territories, however, it is only inviting more violence from the Palestinian side. We have entered a circle of violence and counterviolence. This will not end before there is a real and principled initiative from the Israeli leadership to try to change the situation on the ground in the occupied territories.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Abu-Zayyad, it appears that the other Arab delegations will attend the negotiations. There could even be a breakthrough without Palestinian participation. This what Prime Minister Rabin was referring to when he said that the Palestinians have neither learned nor forgotten anything. You could be left behind.

[Abu-Zayyad] I hope that progress will be made in the peace process on any track, whether with the Palestinians, Syrians, Jordanians, or Lebanese. Any progress on any negotiations track will eventually lead to progress on the other tracks as well. I am not worried about Israel making progress with the Syrians. I do not think that Mr. Rabin's statements should frighten us in any way. We know that the ultimate aim of all the Arab delegations is a comprehensive solution. Regardless of where progress is made now, when the parties eventually sit down and put their signatures to the paper, they will all want to sign a comprehensive peace agreement. That will be impossible to achieve without also reaching an agreement with the Palestinians.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

Qaddumi: Participation in Talks 'Conceivable'

JN1103074093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Sana' al-Imam report from Damascus]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that his talks in Syria centered on the Arab stand to be taken prior to the Damascus meeting of the Arab cordon states. Qaddumi insisted that Israel return all the deportees in deference to the UN and international legitimacy resolutions that were applied on other states. Qaddumi declined to talk about a timetable for returning the deportees and linking this to the possibility of Palestinian participation in the next round of talks. Qaddumi said: Arab delegations going to the peace negotiations is conceivable in order to test U.S. intentions. He added: The new world order, which was adopted by the United States and the big powers, envisages a new political map of the region but we will not allow them to draw this map without us.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Terms for Resuming Talks

LD1003145893 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 Mar 93 pp 4-5

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, at his home in Gaza, by Zaki Shihab; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] To what extent did your meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher affect your position of nonparticipation in the talks until all the Palestinian deportees are repatriated?

['Abd-al-Shafi] My position on that issue is still the same.

[Shihab] Do you believe that the deportees issue is more important than settlement of the Palestinian question through negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We consider both issues to be important. The deportation issue is actually linked to the general problem and the entire Israeli position. In my view, the deportation decision was a reflection of Israeli lack of interest in the terms of reference for peace, namely Resolution 242. That is why committing Israel to compliance with Security Council Resolution 799 is closely linked to the peace process as a whole. We want to put an end to an Israeli action which has been condemned by the international community as a violation of human rights. An immediate implementation of Resolution 799 or a scheduled implementation of that resolution within a short and reasonable period would prompt us to consider the possibility of agreeing to go to the negotiating table. I do not deny that we also wish to know the Israeli position on other matters linked to the implementation of Resolution 242.

[Shihab] In clear terms, would you change your position if the repatriation of the deportees was scheduled to take place within a short period of time?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If the schedule guarantees the return of all the deportees before June and if Israel promises to stop settlement, then my position would change.

[Shihab] What did Warren Christopher tell you about the deportees issue and his contacts with Israeli officials on that matter?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He told us that there was only one agreement, under which Israel was prepared to take back 100 deportees and to schedule the repatriation of the rest within one year of their deportation date. What bothers us here is that Israel might resort to the same deportation measure in the future despite the fact that Resolution 799 was clear, requested an Israeli commitment that there would be no more deportations, and called on it to repatriate the deportees immediately. What we request is Israeli compliance with the UN resolution or a scheduling of the repatriation of all the deportees within a period not later than next June.

[Shihab] What steps did Christopher expect the Israeli Government to take in this connection?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He was not very specific on that. He just said that Israel had no objection to declaring that it would not resort to the deportation method and that Israeli officials had emphasized that the deportation order was an exceptional measure and that such a measure would only be taken in exceptional circumstances. We are not encouraged by that Israeli position because Israel could find many pretexts for saying that any future deportation measures it may take were taken in exceptional circumstances.

[Shihab] In the meetings you attended with the U.S. secretary of state in Jerusalem, did you detect anything special in his approach? What topics were discussed at the two meetings held between the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation and Christopher's aides?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The U.S. secretary stressed to us that it is important to resume the peace process and the Arab-Israeli negotiations and that if the process is not resumed in the near future, it will die and the situation will go back to what it was in the past. He added that there are many crises in the world, saying: "Do not think that the Palestinian question and the Middle East issue are the only crisis we are dealing with." Christopher did emphasize that he came to the region to demonstrate his country's interest in resolving the crisis, and he said: "We are a full partner in the peace negotiations." We, the Palestinians, have not received specific promises that would encourage us to go to the negotiating table this time.

[Shihab] Did the U.S. secretary talk about the letter of assurances given to the Palestinians by the United States before the start of the negotiation process in Madrid?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, he reaffirmed his country's adherence to it and said that his country's position is one that recognizes and calls for the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 as the terms of reference for the peace process. That is the same U.S. position as before. When we called for something specific in our discussions with the U.S. secretary, such as committing Israel to a complete cessation of the settlements process, he did not reply.

[Shihab] What was his comment on the message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat that was handed to him, and what was his reply when you requested revival of the [U.S.] dialogue with the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He said that the United States is not prepared to resume the dialogue with the PLO at the present time for the reasons stated previously by the United States. He added that "some elements in the PLO are doing things that are unacceptable to us. We therefore still maintain the same position as that of the former U.S. Administration."

[Shihab] Did he specify the "the unacceptable things" the PLO was doing?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He talked about the PLO's refusal to expel Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] from the PLO after his organization [the Palestine Liberation Front] carried out the sea landing operation near Tel Aviv, and also the PLO's refusal to condemn that operation. He also talked about President 'Arafat's recent trip to Baghdad. He said that 'Arafat still sympathizes with Saddam Husayn and his policies.

[Shihab] Did he actually mention Abu-al-'Abbas or just drop a hint?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He mentioned him.

[Shihab] What did Christopher offer you that was new?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Nothing except the affirmation that the United States is concerned with the crisis and is a full partner in the negotiations. He also explained the importance of resuming the negotiations as soon as possible.

[Shihab] What is the difference between the characters of Secretary Christopher and his predecessor James Baker? What impressions did you come out with after your two meetings with him?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I came out with a positive impression. I felt that he was sincerely working for a way out of the current dilemma but he did not give a categorical answer on one specific issue despite the fact that we submitted to him one request for an end to [Israeli] settlement.

[Shihab] What was his reply?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He did not reply at all.

[Shihab] Did Christopher give any explanation of what he meant by full partner?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He said that the United States will not replace anyone in the negotiations. I told the U.S. secretary that there are terms of reference for the negotiations and I mentioned Resolution 242 and said that a full partner should compel the negotiating parties to stick to the terms of reference and to uphold Resolution 242.

[Shihab] Your meeting with him was the first direct and high-level Palestinian contact with the new U.S. Administration. Did Christopher try to explain President Clinton's inclinations regarding the Middle East, bearing in mind that Clinton's presidential election campaign statements were pro-Israel?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He said that the U.S. President is interested in the cause of peace and wants to approach it seriously. Christopher gave brother Faysal al-Husayni a direct letter from President Clinton expressing these views.

[Shihab] What did it say?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are not about to reveal its content but, generally speaking, it confirmed that, despite all other preoccupations, the U.S. Administration is giving special attention to the cause of peace in the Middle East.

[Shihab] 'Arafat recently stressed that Israel offered nothing during the negotiations other than a feeble plan for the partition of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into three areas. What did your past negotiations achieve?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is true, and we rejected the Israeli proposal and told the Israeli negotiating delegation that that was contrary to the terms of reference. I see nothing new in the Israeli position to this day.

[Shihab] Did Christopher consult you on a date for the resumption of the negotiations in April?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He insisted that they should be resumed at the nearest opportunity and as soon as possible. We are interested in a solution to the deportees problem and an end to the [Israeli] settlement process, and we want an undertaking to that effect. We told him that we want a resumption but we want the negotiations to be real and credible.

Al-Husayni Discusses Peace Process, Deportees

NC1103105893 London MBC Television in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by MBC correspondent Antoine 'Awn in London; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Awn] Mr. al-Husayni, your visit to London witnessed the first official British-PLO meeting in the presence of PLO leaders. What does this step mean to you?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, this step is very important. It reflects British recognition of the need to deal with the Palestinian people, not just with the inhabitants of the occupied territories. This very important step asserts the British stand supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

['Awn] Britain has not been noted to adopt a negative stand on the Palestinian issue, particularly since the Balfour Declaration. These days we note that the British deal with the Palestinians economically, and politically, they are against deportation. They have now reestablished ties with the PLO. In your view, is this change radical, or is it an appetizer offered to you to return to the negotiating table?

[Al-Husayni] You know that ties between countries seek reconciliation. When a certain country has an interest in a certain area, it will pursue a policy in line with that interest. Britain is aware that the Middle East is going to witness very important developments. It also knows that without the Palestinians, there will be no stability or

solution in the region. Consequently, Britain believes it needs to have a hand in securing a future role in the Middle East.

['Awn] We spoke of British policy. Let us look at the U.S. policy. You recently met with Warren Christopher in the occupied territories. Christopher was optimistic about convening the ninth round of peace talks. What is causing his optimism?

[Al-Husayni] As far as we are concerned, we put forward our position, which is very rational, is completely linked to international legitimacy, and is consistent with the interests of the entire region and with the broad lines of the so-called new world order. I believe it is difficult for the United States to find loopholes in our position. We insist on an Israeli response to Security Council Resolution 799, a halt to deportation, which the whole world recognizes as illegal, and pursuit of policies consistent with the [U.S.] invitations [to the peace conference]. The Israelis are required to comply with these invitations and to take steps showing respect for human rights in the occupied territories. These are clear, practical, and rational demands, and it is difficult for the United States to reject them. We believe Christopher's optimism is due to the intention to try and convince Israel to respond to these ("invitations). If not, I believe that his optimism [sentence incomplete as heard]

['Awn] But there were reports that the Americans pressured the Palestinian negotiator. I do not hide from you what was said—that in their talks with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] officials, for example, the Americans tried to create two Palestinian positions. What is the truth about such reports?

[Al-Husayni] During the negotiations and talks with Christopher in Jerusalem, he expressed understanding of our position. We did not feel that pressure was being exerted on us. There was an attempt to find a new formula that may be suitable for us and for the other parties to reconvene the talks. Regarding the Hamas issue, we were assured by the Americans—through the U.S. consul, who conveyed to us a message that the United States is not seeking to create any division among the Palestinians—that it is fully aware of the extent of our relationship with the PLO and the PLO's role, and that it is not seeking in any way to change this leadership or to create a new leadership. As for the relationship with Hamas, they do not have any dialogue with it and are not seeking to establish a new leadership from Hamas or from [word indistinct]. We heard this [words indistinct].

['Awn] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference] still maintains his position that there can be no return to the negotiations if the deportees are not returned. Is this a common position among all members of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, or are there differences?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, this is the official and clear Palestinian position, which is common to all the members of the delegation. The position is that there can be no return to the negotiations without a solution to the deportees problem, or to better explain, without a solution to the deportation problem. [words indistinct] in exile and how long they will stay in exile, [words indistinct] cancellation of the Israeli deportation policy. If Israel undertakes not to deport people in the future [words indistinct].

['Awn] With your permission, we will return to the deportees issue after this question. The differences between you and the Israeli delegation are great, as we have witnessed in the rounds of negotiations. But the longer the negotiations continue, the more Israel makes gains at the expense of the Palestinians. Do you believe that the negotiations option is the only available solution?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, when we decided to attend these negotiations, it was not because these negotiations were the only option. We think that we have other options. These other options might cost us a higher price and more time, but these options are available, and we can use them if we find there is no alternative. We prefer this issue to be resolved through this peace process and through methods that we prefer. But this does not mean we have abandoned the possibility of using other methods. Simply put, no nation can drop its military option. We maintain this option, but we do not use it. But if we were compelled to use this option, we would, just like any other nation—even if it would cost us a great deal.

['Awn] But when will the time for this option come?

[Al-Husayni] We maintain that so far the political option is the best. It is the option through which we can achieve what we want. Regarding the military option, it does not only depend on us. We cannot abandon this option unless Israel also abandons this option. No one can tell us that you must finally abandon a specific option, while the other side is free to use such an option. This is the message we recently addressed to [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin. We told him: Do not think at all that we went to the peace process because we only had one option; the negotiations option. We have other options. It is better for both of us if you put the military option aside; then we, too, can put it aside.

['Awn] Let us go back to the deportees. We have noticed recently that despite being just, this issue has become an internal Palestinian problem that might obstruct the Palestinian decision. What methods do you use to solve this problem?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, the issue is primarily one of principle. The deportees aren't just those of Marj al-Zuhur. We have had 1,600 deportees since 1967. The solution must include those deported since then. If we agree on the acceptance of the principle, we might be able to talk about a timetable for the deportees' return. There are deportees who have been in exile for 15, 20, and 25 years. They too have a right to return before or after the Marj al-Zuhur deportees. We cannot say we

must not seek the return of one who has been in exile for 25 years because the return of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees is more important. They are all deportees. We must use this opportunity and the situation to commit Israel not only to returning the Marj al-Zuhur deportees, but also to returning other deportees who have been in exile for many years.

['Awn] At first you set out as a condition for returning to the negotiations the return of the deportees and implementation of Resolution 799. If a scheduled return of the deportees is accepted, is it true that there are undeclared reasons for accepting this scheduled return, if you do accept this?

[Al-Husayni] From the beginning, the official position has been that the deportees problem or the deportation problem must be s[illegible]d. The danger lies in deportations. If we can guarantee that there will be no more deportations and if Israel abides by Resolution 799, we can then talk about how the deportees can be returned from abroad, whether they are the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur or those who have been in exile since 1967. There must be a schedule for the return of all these deportees. Then we will be in a position to say that our demands to end the deportation problem have been fulfilled.

['Awn] Frankly speaking, you have two political options, either to take up the Hamas positions or return to the negotiations.

[Al-Husayni] I do not think [words indistinct]. We are responsible for defending their national and humanitarian rights, regardless of the political differences between us and Hamas. We should not disregard their humanitarian rights or their rights as Palestinian citizens. We wage this battle to defend the Palestinian citizen's rights, regardless of his political orientation, religion, or ideology. When we carry out our duty toward the citizen and defend his national and humanitarian rights, we also expect him to behave toward the PLO and the Palestinian national action with the same responsibility the PLO has shown toward him. Political differences are acceptable and legitimate, but they should not be at the expense of human rights or our political interests.

['Awn] The Jewish state tries to focus on a certain Arab negotiating party and neutralize another. Recently, Israel has been waving the Syrian paper and the possibility of reaching an understanding with Syria during 1993, as Rabin has often stated. How do you view the current position of the Arab negotiator?

[Al-Husayni] We are a single Arab nation. We have common aims. But within the existing political formulas, we are divided into states, groups, and peoples. Consequently, if we look at the Middle East issue from this perspective—our division into states—it is very clear that the main political problem lies between the Arab states and Israel. Its cause is the Palestinian issue. So within the current formula of the peace conference and negotiations, I do not believe any Arab state can conclude a unilateral agreement with Israel without a resolution of the Palestinian issue. We do not believe there can be unilateral solutions. Nor are we afraid of any progress on one front faster than on another, as long as there is a clear concept of the final solution embracing all parties, including the important party, the Palestinian party, and including a resolution of the Palestinian issue.

['Awn] You said you are not afraid of Israel reaching a unilateral agreement with a particular Arab party. But a week ago president 'Arafat warned against such a unilateral agreement. Does he still have this apprehension? And do you share his view?

[Al-Husayni] I have said we are not afraid of progress on one front faster than on others. We are not afraid as long as the Arab position is that there will be no final solution without the agreement of all states. We view very seriously the possibility of an Arab state concluding a unilateral solution, but this does not mean that we believe this may take place or succeed. Our fear is that if an Arab party errs and concludes such a deal, it will wreck the basic idea of the peace process. We are not afraid if progress is made within the framework of the peace process, but if an Arab party acts outside this framework, this will be a great danger. [passage omitted]

['Awn] You have called for dialogue with moderate Israelis. You have participated in meetings in the occupied territories. What are the results of this dialogue?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that among the results are Israel's repeal of the ban on contacts with the PLO, the fall of the Likud government, and the appointment of a different kind of minister in Israel. [passage omitted]

['Awn] How do you view the future of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Jerusalem is very dear to us. It is most sacred for the Palestinians. I feel great pain because Jerusalem is divided. Regrettably, Jerusalem is divided, although Israel claims it is a united city. It is divided. There is a part of Jerusalem under occupation and another that lives a normal daily life. We strive to reach a situation in which Jerusalem will be for all and undivided, not in the sense that it is united, but in the sense that there are open borders and the free movement of people. We want to establish our Palestinian capital in Arab East Jerusalem. [words indistinct] I believe that solving the problem of Jerusalem by establishing a Palestinian capital there is the starting point to opening the door to regional cooperation, to creating a better atmosphere in the region, and to giving all the region's peoples the chance to enter the 21st century in a better and dignified way.

['Awn] [passage omitted] Palestinian dreams have lessened—from a state to autonomy, perhaps to less—because of the objectivity being pursued. Where does the reality meet the dream for Faysal al-Husayni?

[Al-Husayni] I disagree with your analysis. Palestinian dreams have not lessened from a state to autonomy. Palestinians aspire to establish a state. What we have in mind is a two-phase solution. In the first phase—transitional—power in the occupied territories will be transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians and an interim self-government will be established. This phase will last two to three years, after which we will start to negotiate the final, permanent status, which we want to be a Palestinian state. These are our dreams. We Palestinians do not use the term autonomy [al-hukm al-dhati] in our political language. We do not use this term. We use the term transitional phase. Autonomy is an Israeli expression that several Arabs, and even some Palestinian opposition elements, wrongly use. We seek a transitional phase during which power will be transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians prior to a permanent solution, which we the Palestinians want to be a full-fledged state. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat Affirms Talks Participation Stance

TA1003182093 Jerusalem AL-USBU' AL-JADID in Arabic 7 Mar 93 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Radi al-Jara'i; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jara'i] As the Palestinian side, what did you say to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during your meeting with him?

['Urayqat] We clarified the Palestinian position to the U.S. secretary of state and explained to him the daily sufferings of our people stemming from violation of Palestinian human rights, the demolition of houses, tax collection campaigns, and the practices of the death squads. We detailed to the U.S. secretary the Palestinian position that is endeavoring for peace and for the success of the peace process. We stressed to him that Rabin's positions, by which he is trying to destroy the peace process, will not lead to positive results but will escalate tension and violence.

The deportee issue figured prominently in the talks and we are maintaining almost daily contacts with U.S. officials over this matter. The basic principle in this issue is that the Israeli Government should announce its commitment to a total halt to deportation under all circumstances, as well as its commitment to implement Security Council Resolution 799.

There are more than 400 recent deportees and about 1,700 Palestinians who have been deported from their homeland since 1967. Ultimately, the 400 deportees will return and some of the 1,700 deportees might be returned as well, but what guarantee is there that Rabin will not deport 1,000 Palestinians afterward. Therefore, the principle is the important thing.

[Al-Jara'i] As far as we Palestinians are concerned, have there been practical results from the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher?

['Urayqat] In fact, there have not been specific results, but discussions with U.S. officials are continuing. We presented six points to Mr. Christopher and talks are being held about them. We demanded the immediate return of all the deportees, since Article 1 of Resolution 799 calls on Israel to abide by nine previous Security Council resolutions on the deportee issue.

[Al-Jara'i] Can you say, therefore, that Christopher's visit failed?

['Urayqat] It neither failed nor succeeded.

[Al-Jara'i] Do you expect the deportee issue to be resolved before April and the resumption of negotiations?

['Urayqat] We are endeavoring for the implementation of Resolution 799. This endeavor depends on U.S. response to international legitimacy. The United States approved Resolution 799. We have noticed, however, that there have been U.S. attempts to hinder the adoption of measures against Israel in a bid to force it to implement the Security Council resolution.

If Israeli intransigence and the treatment of Israel as a state above the law continues, there will be no solution. The language of civility, logic, and progress is incompatible with such a state of affairs. Treating Israel as a state above the law means that we are living according to the law of the jungle. The United States bears a major responsibility for this. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jara'i] There is talk about the inside and outside role in Palestinian decisionmaking. What is the role of the negotiating delegation in Palestinian decisionmaking concerning the negotiations?

['Urayqat] We, as members of a negotiating delegation, have been assigned with a task just as any other delegation that works hard and presents recommendations to its leadership and that, in the final analysis, does not decide but participates in the decisionmaking and carries out the leadership's instructions.

[Al-Jara'i] But what is the extent of this participation in decisionmaking?

['Urayqat] The delegation is part of the Palestinian people. Let us not create an institution from the delegation. The delegation members are individuals assigned with a task. They are not decision makers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jara'i] You are responsible for Arab coordination in the Palestinian delegation. Apparently, there is a difference between the Arab and Palestinian positions. It is being said that the Arab delegations might go to the talks without the Palestinian delegation. Do you subscribe to this notion?

[Urayqat] There is an exaggeration in the talk about Arab-Palestinian differences over the deportees. The Arab position was embodied in the statement issued by the coordinating ministerial meeting held in Cairo. There is an Arab consensus that the one who has impeded the resumption of negotiations is Rabin. Thus, he bears the responsibility for the suspension of the talks. Statements have appeared about a different Arab position. In my opinion, this is an attempt to instill fear in us. We entered the peace process for the sake of establishing a comprehensive, just, and durable peace, not a bilateral and separate peace. I can say with a loud voice that if we do not go to the talks, the Arabs will not go either. Anyone who has other ideas should reassess them. We all want a comprehensive, not a bilateral peace.

[Al-Jara'i] But there is continuing talk about secret negotiations between Syria and Israel and there is an obvious courting between Syria and Israel. What is your opinion on this?

[Urayqat] I can say that there are no secret negotiations and that Rabin and Peres are trying to split the Arab rank. Before the Israeli elections Rabin talked about peace with Jordan. After the elections he talked about peace with the Palestinians. Now, he is talking about peace with Syria. This is an exposed attempt to split the Arabs and sow doubt among us. Should Israel decide to withdraw from the Golan Heights, we will consider this a gain for the Palestinians. We demand from Israel implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which include withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the rest of the occupied Arab lands. We also demand implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates withdrawal from Lebanon. Unfortunately, some people fall into the Israeli trap.

[Al-Jara'i] As we recall, the last round of talks in Washington ended unsuccessfully, namely, the talks stalled because of Israeli foot-dragging. Then came the deportee issue, which was a new development. Were we to assume that the deportee issue is resolved, from where will the talks begin?

[Urayqat] First of all deportation is not a new but an old-new issue. During the talks we demanded an end to deportations, administrative detentions, and the imposition of high taxes. Those taxes were imposed by the authorities after the occupation of 1967 in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

As to where will we begin the talks? We have actually begun the talks from the six points. The issue is inseparable. We are seeking to improve the negotiating situation, and are also seeking to persuade Israel to adopt viewpoints through which progress can be made.

[Al-Jara'i] Mr. Christopher has said that the United States wishes to play the role of a full partner in the talks. How do you see this role, and what is the U.S. concept of a full partner as you understood from the U.S. secretary of state?

[Urayqat] It seems that the Arab concept of a full partner differs from the U.S. concept. The Arab concept interprets full partnership as having the cosponsors of the conference—the Americans and the Russians—sitting at the negotiating table. Whereas, the United States talks about an active role outside the negotiating room.

The letter of assurances has not been adhered to. There has been immense retreat from the terms of reference of the peace process. We are demanding that this matter be addressed, especially the timetable. We are calling on the United States, not only as a superpower, but also as a cosponsor of the peace conference to act in accordance with international legitimacy, not outside this framework.

[Al-Jara'i] Rabin and some Israeli officials are claiming that the recent deportation step was aimed against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and that Hamas is against the peace process. Consequently, they allege that this step is in the interest of peace. What is your response?

[Urayqat] This is completely wrong. If the principle is to deport anyone who opposes peace, Rabin has to deport about 50 percent of the Israeli people. Rabin and others are aware that the Palestinian people are committed to democracy. Hamas is part of the Palestinian people. It has its own institutions and tendencies. Our differences with Hamas over the peace process are immense, but this does not mean deporting or assaulting Hamas supporters.

The Palestinian people's response to the deportee issue has been unified in order to affirm that they are one people, regardless of different schools of thought and ideology.

Report on PLO Memo to Syria on Relations

JN1103093893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Mar 93 pp 1, 24

[Report by Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership is resolutely working to improve its relations with Syria and open a new chapter in relations to overcome the negative shadows of the past and bring about Palestinian-Syrian integration.

A memorandum, presented a few days ago to Syrian officials by Fatah Central Committee Member Colonel Nasr Yusuf, says that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat believes that Syria has a major role to play in supporting the Palestinian house. The memorandum also says that the Palestinian leadership is convinced of the need for a strong and organized Palestinian opposition, which bases its moves and ideas on Palestine National Council resolutions, to harden the political stands.

The memorandum adds: We sincerely seek overcoming the past phase and opening a new chapter in the history

of Palestinian-Syrian relations with the aim of arriving at our ultimate objective of normalizing these relations as the initial step to unifying the Arab ranks.

In the memorandum, the Palestinian leadership wished that joint action could be taken to charter a Palestinian-Syrian relationship based on the strong foundations of mutual respect and trust. The memorandum says: We do not wish to blame any one, but we wish to be realistic. It would be best if bridges are built between President Hafiz al-Asad and president Yasir 'Arafat for a positive outcome to the meeting of the two leaders and to bring about Syrian-Palestinian integration. President 'Arafat believes that independent Palestinian decisionmaking must be preserved. At the same time, he does not object to consultations with Damascus on the basis of mutual understanding. He was, and still is, against all bargaining and will not sign any humiliating deal. Nor will he, in the end, accept other than Jerusalem as the capital for the independent Palestinian state. What is said about his acceptance of anything other than that is untrue.

The memorandum says any peace without the PLO with the strength of its cause, and not approved by Syria, with its military strength, is a feeble peace that will not see the light of day.

The memorandum says: We do not want a peace which means capitulation; but, a just and comprehensive peace.

The memorandum wonders: Does Jerusalem not deserve a cry of conscience from every honorable person.

The 111-page memorandum adds: Our people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have reached a very difficult stage of economic hardship, especially in the Gaza Strip where there is real famine.

It is worth noting that in the past few weeks, Palestinian-Syrian relations went through a critical phase.

Hamas Spokesman Denies Bid To Enter PLO

JN1103091793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Mar 93 pp 1, 16

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has categorically denied reports that it has asked for membership in the PLO's agencies and institutions. Hamas Spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah accused the people spreading these rumors of seeking to distort the movement's principled stands.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Ghawshah said Hamas has never tried to enter the PLO in any way. He asserted: Our entry into the PLO hinges on its withdrawal from the peace negotiations and opening the door to a comprehensive national dialogue, as well as the entry of all Palestinian forces into that body.

Hamas spokesman emphasized that the meeting between the Fatah and Hamas movements in Amman discussed means of activating the Palestinian moves to support the deportees. He said: We have asked the Fatah movement to urge the PLO to present the Palestinian draft resolution to the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Israel for refusing to implement Resolution 799. He explained that the sanctions called for in the Palestinian draft resolution falls short of the sanctions that Israel deserves.

Answering a question, Eng. Ghawshah said that during the Amman meeting, Hamas demanded that Fatah send representatives of a higher level to the dialogue committee with Hamas, in accordance with the Khartoum agreement and in order to activate that committee and coordinate joint action between the two parties.

He also said: It is not true that during that meeting Hamas demanded a financial "quota" from the Palestine National Fund, like the ones given to the other Palestinian factions. He said the people behind such statements seek to accuse Hamas of having a financial disagreement with Fatah, and not a disagreement over crucial issues. We reject such accusations, he said, because our disagreement is over crucial issues concerning a homeland and the destiny of an entire people.

PLO-Hamas Talks Continue, Relations 'Strained'

JN1003125993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Excerpt] Amman—A dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] resumed in Amman this week with high-level meetings between Jordan-based Hamas leaders and the PLO official 'Abbas Zaki.

Two meetings, one held Monday [8 March] and one Saturday, revolved around the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and "coordination" between the PLO and Hamas in the occupied territories.

"We have been discussing two issues which we agree upon which is 799 and developments in the occupied territories," said Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal. "Cooperation between Hamas and the PLO in the occupied territories was discussed," Mr. Nazzal told the Jordan Times.

Neither Mr. Nazzal nor Mr. Zaki would discuss the nature of cooperation between the two groups.

"The talks have not yielded fruit yet and therefore I prefer not to make announcements about the nature of our dialogue," said Mr. Zaki, a leading figure in the mainstream Fatah faction.

But relations between the PLO and Hamas remain strained as a result of Hamas' overtures to foreign

governments over the Dec. 17 expulsion of some 400 Palestinians who are largely affiliated to Hamas as well as the Islamic Jihad.

"Right now the PLO is really not very happy with Hamas," said a Tunis-based PLO official who has sat in on some of the PLO-Hamas talks.

"As the representatives of the Palestinian people we are responsible for those evictees in South Lebanon and we have made major diplomatic overtures on their behalf," said the official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"There was no need for Hamas to appeal and meet with foreign diplomats over this issue," said the official in an angry tone.

"The last straw, however, was when they apealed to Syria," added the official.

Ties between the PLO leadership and the Syrian government also remain strained. Relations appeared to thaw last year; the level of animosity between the two seems to continue.

"When the expellees made a statement at the end of February appealing to Syria and basically calling Syria their protector that was the last straw," said the official, referring to expellee spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi's remarks that he hoped Syria would "fulfill our hopes of a quick and collective return."

The appeal to Syria was seen by the PLO as a slap in the face. Syria is thought to be the Arab country closest to an agreement with the Israelis but it hosts and encourages anti-peace talk Palestinian parties which are based in Damascus.

The PLO sees Syria hosting of some friendly and unfriendly opponents of Fatah group as "a double-edged sword."

"We have no trouble with the concept of some Palestinian groups being based in Damascus but the inter-Palestinian dialogue must remain amicable and that has not always been the case," said the Amman-based PLO official.

By appealing to Syria, Hamas hit a raw nerve of the PLO.

The PLO feels it is its "duty" to continue its contacts and dialogue with Hamas, because "the PLO is the representative of all Palestinians and Hamas is Palestinian," said the official. "It is not going to make any concessions to Hamas over issues of representation in the Palestine National Council."

"There will be no compromise, they were offered 12 seats in the PNC and they can take it or leave it," said the Amman-based PLO official.

Political analysts close to Hamas have said that the organisation has changed its approach vis-a-vis its role in the PNC. "They will wait till an agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians is made and then join the Palestinian parliament. Thus they won't be held responsible for the outcome of the talks," said the senior PLO member.

Mr. Nazzal said the "issue of joining the PNC is not a priority right now." [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Meeting With UK's Hogg Reported

LD1003210793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, received in London yesterday a Palestinian delegation which included brother Hayil al-Fahum, head of the PLO's European affairs section; brother 'Afif Safiyah, the PLO's representative in London; and Dr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Following the audience, Dr. al-Husayni stated that without a solution to the problem of the deportees the whole peace process will be in jeopardy, adding that there is no solution other than the Israelis' assurance that there will be no further deportation in the future. Hogg asserted, for his part, that the Palestinians are really interested to return to the negotiating table but they believe that there are still obstacles. He added that any progress on the problem of the deportees will contribute immensely to their return to the negotiations. The PLO's representative in London brother 'Afif Safiyah stated that this meeting has consecrated the PLO's full representation [of the Palestinian people]. He added that Britain's initiative was undoubtedly taken with its European partners' agreement, asserting that he is very satisfied with that matter.

British Step in Upgrading PLO Contacts Lauded

TA1003202493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A British Step in the Right Direction"]

[Text] The British Government's step in upgrading British-Palestinian contacts to the ministerial level, regardless of its covert or overt motive, is a positive step in the right direction. This path was taken by another European country a short while ago when it adopted its decision to upgrade Belgian-Palestinian contacts to the ministerial level also.

The two British and Belgian steps express a growing tendency, which is beginning to be crystallized by the European Community, to play a more active role in the Middle East, especially in the peace process. This is something that had collided with the walls of U.S. monopoly which did not welcome, publicly at least, an active European role in the establishment of peace between the Arabs and Israel.

Perhaps this lack of U.S. welcome was a reflection of an almost established Israeli position, which saw the need

to reduce and marginalize the European role because of the European positions adopted in the last two decades, some of which tended toward understanding the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian people's basic rights.

We do not wish to draw an exaggerated conclusion about the role of the Palestinian card in the peace talks or in the resumption of the peace talks for one simple reason. This card is very crucial because it constitutes the basis of any agreement in the Middle East. No party, whomever it may be, can ignore the necessity of Palestinian presence within the framework of negotiations. At the same time, the pressures and incentives being used with the Palestinians should be harmonious with the resolutions of international legitimacy, of which the Palestinians have declared their acceptance, conceding a large part of their demands and rights upon the request of the international community.

Britain, which contributed historically in creating the region's events and which is playing roles at numerous levels in the international arena, whether in Europe or at the Security Council, is required to exert more pressure on the Israeli side to secure the realization of requirements that ensure a Palestinian return to the peace talks—a return based, in spirit and letter, on the foundations of international legitimacy.

'Arafat 'Goodwill Gesture' Toward Israel Reported

TA1003142893 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] AL-FAJR has learned that president Yasir 'Arafat has responded to the humanitarian demand by famous Israeli peace activist, Abie Natan, to help return the bodies of Israeli soldiers killed in south Lebanon to Israel. Natan had insisted on this demand during his last meeting with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to president 'Arafat, as a goodwill gesture by the Palestinian side in return for goodwill gestures by Israel. Hence, president 'Arafat dispatched Mr. Jibril al-Rajub to Lebanon to follow this issue and endeavor to realize this humanitarian gesture.

Algeria

Setif Governor Suspends 409 Associations

LD1003150193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The governor of Setif province has recently moved to suspend a large number of associations at the province level, while awaiting the issuance of a decision of final dissolution by the judiciary. The reasons for this action: these associations did not respect the law on associations and exceeded their jurisdiction. Here is a report by correspondent Faycal Ghamis

[Begin Ghamis recording] This measure stipulates the suspension of activities of 409 associations working in the province. The official in charge of information at the provincial Governor's Office pointed out that there are among the associations concerned by this measure: 195 religious associations, 140 associations of pupils' parents, 40 associations of a social character, 30 cultural associations, and four associations of a socio-cultural character.

The same source mentioned that the governor took this measure in view of the fact that the associations concerned started to work within an illegal framework on the basis of the fact that they exceeded their jurisdiction and practiced activities of incitement which violate their legal framework. The same source said that after taking the decision to suspend the activities of the above-mentioned associations, the governor referred the case to the judiciary in order that the latter renders judgement in accordance with the text of the law on associations. It is thus expected that the official dissolution of the associations, whose activities have been suspended, will take place in the next few days. [end recording]

UGTA Issues Statement on 'Misleading Information'

LD1003220293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] In these difficult times which the country is going through, the General Secretariat of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] has issued a statement in which it expressed its solidarity, its commitment to national unity, and its determination to work toward the establishment of social justice. Here follows the text of the statement:

The recent developments intervening in the relations between the UGTA and the government at the highest levels have revealed real opportunities to bring things back to normal and resume the dialogue. The preliminary contacts that have taken place have helped formulate the main lines and identify the major issues that will be the subject of negotiations between the two sides in the next few days.

Issues such as purchasing power, wages, restructuring and rehabilitating the public sector, saving jobs, protecting workers against unemployment and providing them with social protection, in addition to a wider and more comprehensive definition of the objective conditions to control inflation, constitute the main indications that give a tangible form to the forthcoming negotiations. It is worth mentioning again that the two sides have already reached important agreements in principle about the abovementioned points.

This development, which rises above all misunderstandings and useless provocative statements, reflects the determination of the UGTA to do its utmost, in anticipation of an escalation of the crisis in the job market in these difficult times, to get the other parties concerned to take more action to establish an effective social justice which is seen and felt by all the poor and the deprived people in the country.

This responsible and constructive stand adopted by the UGTA stems from its firm adherence to its patriotic line and from the national and historical responsibilities dictated by the extremely dangerous situation in the country.

Furthermore, the General Secretariat of the UGTA warns all workers against misleading information to the effect that their trade-union is backing concepts that are alien to it, or that it is extolling political theses, ideologies, and demands that are contrary to its beliefs and are totally remote from the deep-rooted reality of the Algerian people and their civilization, culture, and history.

Therefore the UGTA does not want to turn into a springboard or a platform for settling accounts and conflicts or for launching political initiatives which do not concern it. The UGTA also refuses to be an effective part in any premeditated operation which aims at redrawing the political map in a way that endangers national unity, Republican values and the democratic ideal.

[Signed] Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda, secretary general of the UGTA.

Egypt

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Denies Summit With Israel, U.S.

NC1003221193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2139 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived this evening on a brief working visit to Egypt. Speaking upon arrival, al-Shar' said he is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Husni Mubarak dealing with the peace process, the Palestinian deportees, and the situation in the region.

Concerning the invitations sent to the parties involved in the peace process to attend the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, al-Shar' said: There will be a chance to exchange views and consult with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the obstacles facing the peace process and how they could be overcome.

On the problem of the deportees, al-Shar' reiterated Syria's position calling for the need to secure the return of all deportees, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799, and the resumption of the peace process without obstacles or a negative atmosphere. Al-Shar' said that a meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states will be held to adopt a unified Arab stand regarding the Middle East issues.

Asked if there are preparations to hold a Syrian-Israeli-U.S. summit, al-Shar' said that he has no knowledge on this subject. He added: We have expressed our position before; such summits are not on the table, and the Syrian position firm and known.

Comments on Deportees, Peace

NC1103140893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad when he received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today.

Afterward, al-Shar' said they discussed the peace process and the deportees issue and ways to secure their return as soon as possible.

He said Egypt and Syria share certain ideas over the contacts to be made with the American side. He said the Arab parties concerned with the peace process will hold bilateral contacts in Damascus after 'Id al-Fitr [22-25 March].

Al-Shar' was asked to explain his view of the notion of a full partner and whether he is a mediator, referee, or plays some other role. He said: It is up to the American side to explain its concept of the full partner.

He said he hoped the concept of a full partner means an impartial stance on the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and Resolution 425 on south Lebanon.

Asked if the talks dealt with the Palestinian rejection of the invitation to attend the peace talks or with the Egyptian and Syrian stance on the rejection, al-Shar' said: Yes, we discussed the six Palestinian proposals, which we support. We have reviewed them and state two points: The first deals with the collective return of the deportees as soon as possible. The second deals with the means to prevent future deportations.

Asked if Syria has confidence in the United States, which still includes Syria as one of six countries on the terrorism list, al-Shar' said: We in Syria believe the charge is baseless. We also believe in the right of nations that suffer under the yoke of foreign occupation to defend themselves with every available means. If the accusation has to do with our support of the nation's right to self-defense against foreign occupation, then Syria will be honored to receive such an accusation.

Continuing, the Syrian foreign minister said: Syria and Egypt have specific proposals that would help to find a solution to ensure the collective return of all the deportees and halt any future deportation moves.

Asked if an agreement on the resumption of the peace talks in April has been reached and whether the U.S. proposal that the deportees return gradually over a period of six months instead of one year has been accepted, the Syrian foreign minister said the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the peace process will meet in Damascus after 'Id al-Fitr to discuss the U.S. and Russian invitations and take the appropriate collective stand toward them. Concerning the return of the deportees, he said Syria and Egypt have specific proposals for a solution whereby all the deportees are returned and future deportations are halted.

On Syria's position toward the Israeli plan for withdrawal from the Golan, as announced by some Israeli officials, al-Shar' stressed that his country does not accept any partial withdrawal from the Golan. He said: We are demanding a full withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories and the achievement of a genuine and comprehensive peace in the region. Any media reports to the contrary, especially if attributed to Syria, are groundless.

Al-Shar' added: We are ready for a serious discussion about the full-withdrawal-for-full-peace pronouncement.

On Egypt's position toward the deportees problem, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed that Egypt's position remains firm—namely, the need for the deportees to return promptly so as to eliminate this hurdle and cleanse the atmosphere of the negotiations. He said this obviously is the position of Egypt and Syria in all their discussions.

Asked whether an agreement has been reached for the peace talks to be resumed in April, Musa said: The invitations have been extended, and we hope all parties, including the Palestinians, will attend.

Musa hoped all obstacles will be overcome. On the proposal that the deportation term be reduced to six months, Musa said: This is possible and required, but no agreement over it has been reached yet.

On the dimensions of Syrian-Egyptian coordination in light of recent changes, the foreign minister said: No changes can affect Egyptian-Syrian coordination; on the contrary, the coordination is moving from good to better, and from better to superior.

On the possibility of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad visiting Egypt, Foreign Minister Musa expected the visit

to materialize after the 'Id al-Fitr. Asked whether some kind of progress has been achieved to warrant the visit, Musa hoped there will be progress concerning the Golan and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Al-Shar' Departs; Musa Comments

NC1103140693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' left Cairo this afternoon after a one-day visit to Egypt. He delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the peace process, the Palestinian deportees, and the current situation in the region.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who saw the Syrian minister off, said the visit was useful and productive. He said a number of issues were discussed in the framework of the constant coordination between Syria and Egypt, especially under the current circumstances.

He said that some problems still surround the peace process. which we hope will resume on the agreed-upon dates.

Mubarak on 'Peace Train', Sudan, Terrorism

NC1003195993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said we support the Palestinian cause and people regardless of the statements made and variety of Palestinian organizations. He said the peace train is currently passing through the region and if the Arabs miss it, they may not get another opportunity. He said that as an Arab nation, we have the essentials to negotiation for our full rights.

At a meeting today with members of the People's Assembly and members of the general Secretariat of the local popular council in Cairo, President Mubarak said that any issue should be settled through negotiations and dialogue and that war will not settle any problem.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak responded to a question on the issue of the Palestinian deportees, Egyptian efforts to solve it, and its effects on the peace negotiations. Mubarak said that certain countries and forces adopt stands opposed to the peace process and do not want the negotiations to continue or succeed. They motivate certain people to subvert the peace process and to launch acts of terror.

President Mubarak said terrorism gives a false and bad picture of Islam, noting that this terrorist trend is supported by a state that claims to adhere to and apply Islam. He said Egypt fought in the October war and achieved victory, but it settled its issue through negotiations. He said the Egyptian negotiator's experiment obviously worked in the restoration of our territories.

On the issue of Sudan and Hala'ib, President Mubarak said every time the Sudanese government encounters a difficult domestic situation, it imagines that raising the Hala'ib problem or any other problem with Egypt will preoccupy Sudanese public opinion. He noted that the same thing happened with Presidents Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, and Anwar al-Sadat and it is happening again these days. He said these calculations are wrong and that the Sudanese people know the facts and cannot be deceived by such claims. He said relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are deep and firm and cannot be affected by such attempts and claims. The Sudanese people, he said, know that Egypt supported the current Sudanese regime and that we had no goal other than to support the Sudanese people's interests. The Sudanese officials, he said, know that Hala'ib is an Egyptian territory and that Egypt offers administrative facilities. He said there is a difference between sovereignty, which we will not relinquish, and the administrative facilities offered to both Egyptians and Sudanese who live in the region. He denied reports that Egypt has military concentrations in the Hala'ib area, saying the forces there are ordinary border units.

Responding to a question on excesses in the Sudanese press against Egypt, Mubarak said these excesses are inconsistent with values. We are tolerant, he said, and we do not engage in such inappropriate verbal excesses. We appreciate the Sudanese people, more than 3 million of whom live among the Egyptians, as one people. He said that the only thing which he will not be lenient about is anything that harms or threatens Egypt's national security.

On his upcoming visit to the United States, Mubarak said his goals in meeting with President Bill Clinton are to discuss issues of common concern on the international, regional, and bilateral levels.

On U.S. aid to Egypt, Mubarak said there is nothing to indicate that the United States will [change] its stand on the aid it offers to friendly countries—Egypt or any others. He said: We do not expect to remain dependent on the aid given to us forever. We take into consideration the fact that we will gradually become more self-reliant and expect that any country that offers aid will do this gradually to achieve economic balance with its friends. He said that we are seeking to increase our resources and cooperation with the international community through economic reforms.

Mubarak said there are several reason for pursuing privatization. First, the major strategic industries will remain in the hands of the government as there is no economic power capable of possessing it and also to retain the state's strategy, be it political, economic, or social.

Second, the state shoulders full responsibility for preserving the workers' rights in the companies or factories whose ownership may be transferred to joint stock

companies or investors and ensuring the workers are allowed to have alternative jobs or lucrative compensation.

Cairo Governor 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir made a speech at the start of the meeting, in which he stressed that the Cairo construction planning committee modernized Cairo's planning projects as outlined in maps. He said that this boring work took approximately one year beginning in 1992, noting that numerous alterations and additions were dictated by recent events.

Musa: University Closure in Sudan 'Unacceptable'

NC1003165393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1443 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described Sudan's decision to close the Cairo University branch in Khartoum as "a regrettable position." He said that the Sudanese measure is unacceptable to us, and that we view it as an escalation of the situation by Sudan that may harm bilateral relations. Musa said Egypt has offered, and is offering, a great deal of services in the field of education. It is important, he said, that everyone should know that the annual cost of Egyptian education in Sudan exceeds 55 million pounds, which indicates Egypt's obligation to the Sudanese people.

Musa stressed the need for the continuation of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committees and the importance of dialogue and communication, even under these difficult circumstances caused by the decisions of the Sudanese government. He reaffirmed Egypt's concern for the interests of the Sudanese people and the need to continue bilateral relations. He said the Cairo University branch in Khartoum contributed to the graduation of thousands of Sudanese students, noting that the Cairo University branch includes 30,000 students.

Sudan's Move on School Protested; Egyptians Recalled

NC1103104293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has summoned the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo and officially notified him of the Egyptian Government's protest over the Sudanese decision to take over the Khartoum Branch of Cairo University—conduct regarded as uncordial and as ignoring what Egypt has offered to education in Sudan and the large amounts of resources it has dedicated to guarantee the success of university education in Khartoum.

A news release issued by the Foreign Ministry today said: In view of the Sudanese decision, it has been decided to recall Egyptian professors and administration staff to Cairo at once. The Education Ministry is preparing an inventory of Egyptian properties and an account of all rights of the university, its professors, and employees in the Khartoum Branch to prepare for taking all the suitable legal measures to preserve these rights. It also has been decided to accept all Egyptian students attending the Khartoum Branch of Cairo University in Egyptian universities.

Kuwaiti Position on Damascus Declaration Derided

NC1003125393 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Mar 93 p 14

[By Samir Rajab from the "Dividing Lines" column—punctuation as published]

[Text] Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun visited us 25 days ago..!! He is known for changing his remarks on the same issue..!! He sometimes calls to separate the security aspect from the economic aspect of the Damascus Declaration, while at other times he denies making such remarks. The Kuwaiti speaker has even stated a need to link, not separate the two aspects..!!

In a statement before leaving Cairo, al-Sa'dun said the Damascus Declaration will be implemented within hours..!! But nearly a month has passed and the position of Kuwait and its sisterly Gulf states on the Declaration has not changed..!!

Kuwaiti newspapers yesterday carried banner headlines saying: An Opinion Poll of the Kuwaiti Public: Most Kuwaitis Reject the Presence of Arab Forces..!! The papers then say that the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY conducted an opinion poll on the presence of Arab forces in Kuwait. The agency gives the results of the poll as follows: Some 46.8 percent oppose the presence of these forces in their country..! And only 16 percent favor that presence. The agency said that 43.2 percent want U.S. forces to remain and not be replaced by other forces, Arab or international..!!

Only God knows if this poll took place or if it was made up in an attempt to prove that the Kuwaitis oppose the presence of Arab forces but at the same time would "love" to have U.S. forces on their territory.. to be assured that these forces will protect the citizens while other forces cannot..!!

There is no doubt that all this is intended to portray the government and, with it, the National Assembly led by al-Sa'dun as helpless under the pressure of "the popular will," which prefers "the Americans" and does not want to hear about the Arabs..!!

This would be the case if the poll and its results were rigged.. But if we choose the path of "good intentions" and assume the poll was sound, things would be clear. It would be better, therefore, for the signatories of the Damascus Declaration to announce the death of the Declaration.. because evasion will not be in anyone's interest..!!

This has always been the Arabs' condition..while they erect "statues" to foreigners, they hurl stones at their "prophets"..!!

PLO's 'Abbas Meets Foreign Minister, Comments

NC1003210993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, today. Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah also attended the meeting. After the meeting, Abu-Mazin said that the main topic of discussions was the issue of the deportees. He said resolving this issue will provide us with an opportunity to participate in the ninth round of the peace talks. He said emphasis was placed on the points relating to all aspects of the deportees' crisis, which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher discussed with the Palestinian delegation.

Abu-Mazin said Musa demonstrated very deep interest in following up this issue to help resolve it before the ninth round of peace talks. He also stressed the need for clear steps toward solving the deportees issue, for a commitment to refrain from deporting other Palestinians, and for an agreement on how to return the deportees.

Abu-Mazin said that there is no doubt that Israel's arbitrary measures against the Palestinians will considerably affect the peace process as they will frustrate the Palestinian people and make them lose confidence in the credibility of the peace process. He said that Israel is making a big mistake when it escalates these operations and bombs Palestinian camps by aircraft, tanks, and artillery. These actions, he said, are absolutely unreasonable and do not help the peace process.

Abu-Mazin also said preparations are under way for president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, which will take place in the near future. He said the date of the meeting between the five Arab foreign ministers of the countries concerned with peace will be set in the next two days.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he and Abu-Mazin discussed the deportees issue, the peace process, and the outcome of Faysal al-Husayni's visit to London and the various contacts with the Palestinian party. He said that he will resume talks with Abu-Mazin tomorrow.

U.S. 'Witch Hunt' Against Muslims Described

NC1003152593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Mar 93 p 8

[By Salamah Ahmad Salamah from the "Close-Up" column: "Witch Hunt"]

[Text] It might be useful for the Arab and Islamic countries to ask the U.S. Administration to be cautious about leveling accusations and chasing Arabs and Palestinians who might be suspected of being Muslim. This is especially true following the arrest of the American [as published] of Palestinian origin accused of being behind the explosion at New York's World Trade Center and who is said to belong to one of the extremist fundamentalist groups.

The U.S. media play an important role in inciting emotions and arousing feelings. Many innocent people inevitably fall victim to campaigns of blind hatred even before authorities discover who is the real criminal and who is behind him. Security agencies and the police pant behind these campaigns to save face before the public and, hence, commit serious mistakes and perpetrate severe violations against hundreds of innocent people.

The Arabs were the target of serious violations during the Gulf war. The violators did not differentiate between those who supported Iraq and those who opposed it. U.S. authorities applied the principle that a man is guilty until proven innocent, not vice versa. Hundreds were arrested, had residence permits taken away, and were expelled. American-Arab groups protested and demanded fair treatment. Campaigns against Arabs did not subside until President Bush declared victory over Saddam Husayn!!

No one in the Arab world paid attention to this because we were all in a deep slumber from which we awakened only lately.

The problem this time is more complicated. The attack on Islam can be justified by the accumulated accusations, misunderstandings, mistakes, and crimes perpetrated by Muslims individuals. These have accumulated in recent years without anyone trying to remove, explain, or rectify them. In addition, so-called Islamic fundamentalism has become the new enemy of the West, the United States, and Israel.

The fact is that the situation in the Muslim world has become so terrifying that it causes concern. Freedom of religion is guaranteed in the United States; however, religious freedom is simply restricted and repressed whenever it is believed that it is a threat to the regime and society.

There are many incidents in U.S. history that prove this trend. In the 17th century, a court executed 19 people on charges of sorcery when the church launched a campaign against witches and burned them. Since that time, every unfair campaign waged against innocent people has been called a witch hunt.

In light of all this, it was not [as published] strange for President Clinton to call on the U.S. people to show restraint before accusing Muslims of blowing up the World Trade Center!!

Israel Said To Achieve 'Objectives' in NY Bombing

NC1003181693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Mar 93 p 8

[By Salamah Ahmad Salamah from the "Close-Up" column: "Birds... With One Stone"]

[Text] Now that a Palestinian—born in Israel, holder of an Egyptian passport, and with U.S. citizenship—has been arrested on charges of bombing New York's World Trade Center, Israel has achieved all its objectives.

It was necessary that a man of Palestinian origin, Sirhan Bisharah Sirhan, be convicted of killing Robert Kennedy on the second anniversary of the 1967 defeat. Similarly, it is necessary at this particular stage that the New York bomber be a man of Palestinian origin, one who at one time carried an Egyptian passport and who now belongs to Muslim extremists who killed [former Egyptian President] al-Sadat and who are now attacking tourists, staging violent acts in Egypt, harassing Israel, and resisting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Last but not least, the man belongs to the extremist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which opposes peace talks with Israel.

There must be a mastermind behind this well-planned action, which hit several birds with one stone. Some widespread international planning must have gone on to have found a very small needle in the haystack; namely this defendant, who combines all the traits, characteristics, and sins—and hence has the entire new world order, which is looking for enemies under the cloak of the new Islamic extremism, against him—of the Islamic fundamentalists. Islamic extremism, in turn, must be held responsible for the new international terrorism order.

The idea was devilish and clever because it has pitted the United States, the West, Israel, the Arab world, and most of the rest of the world against this trend, including all the moderates and extremists it represents. It is also pitting the Islamic world against itself, splitting ranks, and creating suspicions among regimes and their people and between rulers and ruled so that the siege and acts of submission can become easier.

Some time will lapse before we know the truth about the incident and those behind it. What makes one suspicious, however, is that the Islamic extremist elements—which have found in the United States a haven and shelter—would destroy the very nest that has sheltered and protected them by staging such a mad act as bombing the World Trade Center. This act neither serves any specific objective, symbolizes anything Islamic, nor has anything to do with Islamic or Arab issues!

The only way to put the puzzle together is to resort to the Israeli "Mosad." It alone is capable of deciphering the act, pinpointing the real culprits, and revealing the real objectives behind this terrorist action, which ultimately serves only one party, which is, coincidentally or not, Israel itself.

Israeli Hand Seen in NY, Cairo Cafe Blasts

NC1003185793 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Mar 93 p 14

[By Mustafa Amin from the "Idea" column]

[Text] We denounce the bombing of New York's World Trade Center as strongly as we did the bombing of Cairo's Wadi al-Nil Cafe. Both bombings seem to be linked, as they occurred at the same time. We very much regret that the defendant holds an Egyptian passport; Egypt is innocent and has nothing whatsoever to do with this criminal act.

We believe the only state that stands to gain from these actions is Israel. This action served it and provided it with a golden opportunity to distort our image to the entire world.

The United States captured the defendant within 24 hours. Regrettably, we were unable to do that here. Certainly, justice will reach those who bombed the Wadi al-Nil Cafe. Regardless of how long it takes, the perpetrators will not escape justice. We hope the connection between Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the terrorist leader, and this crime will not be proved.

The defendant in the World Trade Center bombing behaved strangely: Hours after the explosion, he went to the car rental company to claim his refund, thereby making it easy for police to identify and arrest him. It is strange that he would sacrifice his freedom and perhaps his life for a mere $400.

News agencies reported that the bill of indictment involved a strange paradox: The rental car contract included the telephone number of an Israeli named 'Uzi Hawas [name as published]. News agencies confirmed that the American police searched this Israeli for bomb detonators. Is 'Uzi a partner to the crime? Is the crime a joint action between Israeli intelligence and Arab terrorists? Everything indicates that the motive of the bombings is revenge against Egypt and the United States. The next few days will reveal a great deal.

'Frantic' Zionist Campaign Against Arabs Seen

NC1003203293 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Mar 93 p 14

[From the "Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] Taking advantage of the fact that some suspects in New York's World Trade Center bombing are Arabs, world Zionism has launched a frantic campaign against Arabs and Muslims.

It is unfair for Arabs and Muslims to be blamed for a crime perpetrated by an individual or a group of individuals, especially considering that the overwhelming majority of Arabs and Muslims have denounced this regrettable attack.

We do not believe bombs are useful to our cause; indeed, they are seriously detrimental. We have no interest whatsoever in stirring the Americans against us. We do not want the most powerful country in the world to antagonize us. On the country, we want friendship and understanding with the United States. We want to prove that all Zionist intrigues against us are groundless.

We gain nothing from hostility with the United States; on the contrary, we lose much, and we give Israel the opportunity to stab us in the back. All we want is for the United Statcs to stop interfering in our internal affairs and respect our independence, sovereignty, and freedom.

We are saddened when we see Arab enemies win what the Arabs lose, and we know that the illusion that Islam is against the West is not at all useful; in fact, it is extremely harmful.

We denounce the blind campaigns against Islam in the Western media. Such campaigns are clearly heard in Yugoslavia, and result in the rape of Muslim women and assaults on Muslim children. These foolish Serbian acts were a result of the unjust campaigns against Muslims in Europe.

Christians and Muslims lived in our countries as brothers for hundreds of years. We shared the same bread and had the same fate. We fought the same battles. We triumphed together; we lost together. We have the same feelings about Christians in Europe and the United States. Zionist intrigues cannot divide us.

New Jersey 'Extremist Group,' NY Blast Discussed

NC1003211593 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 8 Mar 93 pp. 3-5

[Unattributed report: "The Port Said Organization in the United States Planned the New York Bombing!"]

[Excerpts] Two bombings took place on the same day, one at Cairo's al-Tahrir Square by a local-made device; the other bigger one in New York by a booby-trapped car. In Cairo, three cafe customers were killed and 21 others were wounded. In New York, the World Trade Center was rocked as if by an earthquake. Five people were killed, more than 1,000 wounded, and thousands more were trapped in dark, smoke-filled rooms. [passage omitted]

A major and unexpected surprise occurred on Thursday [4 March], when U.S. police named a suspect in the New York bombing. News reports indirectly linked the bombing of the cafe and that of the World Trade Center. It was announced that two Egyptians [as published] living in New Jersey, named Muhammad Salamah and Sayyid Jaljamuni [name as published], are the primary suspects in the New York case. It is said that they are carrying Palestinian [as published] passports.

According to information obtained by ROSE AL-YUSUF, the men belong to a New Jersey extremist group. They are engaged in activities sponsored by Sultan Ibrahim al-Jawli, who owns a building that houses the al-Salam Mosque, where 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman lectures. Al-Jawli is a Palestinian from Gaza who reportedly carries an Egyptian passport and belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood. He left Egypt in the sixties aboard a ship from Port Said to Brooklyn, the United States, where he was given political asylum. He eventually married a Christian Lebanese named Caroline. In New Jersey, al-Jawli worked in gold trafficking and, as cover, opened a travel agency, where Sayyid Nusayr and someone named Mustafa used to work before Nusayr was accused of killing Me'ir Kahana. Mustafa owns a translation office in the same building.

Al-Jawli has a criminal record, having been charged in an arms smuggling case in 1985. He was released on a $400,000 bail and later sentenced to two years in prison. He was later pardoned. He is suspected of having contacts with a number of countries sponsoring worldwide fundamentalist activities. While studying in the United States, Salamah worked in one of Sultan's shops, the "Port Said Grocery Store," located at (?Siba) Avenue. Another person seen there was Muhammad Sami, who was coordinating between Sultan and the mujahidin in Afghanistan and who encourages blacks to join Islam, for a $30,000 fee.

As for 42-year-old Sayyid Jaljamuni, he is known to be dealing in property, specializing in rundown and even burned homes unsuitable for residence. He buys them through bank auctions and sells them for a profit. These people have declared their intention to form a jihad government in exile led by al-Jawli and 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. This prompted REUTER to say that the United States has become an extremist paradise, as it has sheltered and bred them and even used them politically. [passage omitted]

Vatican Official Departs After 3-Day Visit

NC1003215193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1514 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Jean Louis Tauran, Vatican secretary for relations with states, left Cairo this afternoon following a three-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Mubarak: Official Resigned Over 'Personal Behavior'

NC1103065793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpts] At the end of a tour of Cairo Governorate today, President Mubarak met members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council from Cairo, members of the general secretariat of the local popular council, and heads of governorate executive agencies. [passage omitted]

Asked about rumors circulating on the resignation of a senior official, President Mubarak said a rumor that the resignation is linked with a political position, spying [takhabur], or otherwise is not true. He added: We do not cover up any corruption or deviation that harms society or the country. The issue, he added, concerns personal affairs and conduct. I wish it had not happened. [passage omitted]

[In a related report, Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 10 March adds the following: "President Husni Mubarak has denied that a senior official resigned recently because of a political stance or over any spying involving a foreign country. The president said the issue simply concerns personal behavior, which tradition prevents us from discussing."]

'Violent' Government Antiterrorist Campaigns Detailed

NC1003194593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—In the past two days, security forces have launched most violent antiterrorist campaigns within the framework of a plan for an all-out confrontation to apprehend the fugitive leaders of the terrorist elements accused of committing recent incidents in the Cairo, Giza, al-Qalyubiyah, and Aswan Governorates.

A responsible security source told MENA that these campaigns have been prepared and planned at a high level and with the participation of the State Security Intelligence, the Central Security Forces, and the security directorates of the governorates involved.

He said the security forces launched these campaigns simultaneously in the four governorates after obtaining permission from the public prosecution offices involved. The campaigns targeted the dens of terrorist elements and their places of assembly.

In Giza Governorate, police came under heavy fire while attempting to attack building No. 7 in Husayn Hasan Street in 'Izbat al-Sa'ayidah. Two officers were injured and two of the Special Operations recruits were martyred. Two defendants, Muhammad Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im and Khalifah Mahmud Ramadan, were also killed after being hit during the clash. One of the terrorists was a defendant in the assassination of Police Officer Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Ala', a State Security Intelligence officer, in al-Fayyum last year.

The wife of defendant Khalifah Ramadan and her child were also killed during the clash, when the two defendants tried to use them as shields to escape the siege. That tactic was a repeat of the incident in which Captain 'Ali Khatir was martyred in Alexandria, when terrorist Hasan Shihatah Badran opened fire on him after taking cover behind his wife and children.

At the site of the clash, police found two automatic rifles, a pistol, a container of explosives, and bags containing TNT.

Security forces launched a second campaign in Giza Governorate against building No. 33 in Ahmad Mansur Street in the Warraq al-Hadar area. Police surrounded the area and called on the fugitives hiding inside to surrender. The fugitives, however, opened fire and 1st Lt. Khalid Mahir Ahmad Zamzam, from the Criminal Investigation Department in Giza, was martyred.

Security forces exchanged fire with the fugitives, and Khalid 'Abd-al-Hamid Imam and Faraj Jilani Jad were killed. The two had been accused of armed robbery on jewelry stores. Defendant Husayn 'Ali Husayn was arrested. He is a member of the group that planned the operations. Security forces found an automatic rifle, two pistols, and large sums of money at the location.

In the third campaign, launched by security forces in Giza Governorate, building No. 6 in al-Nasr Street was attacked and two terrorist were arrested. No injuries were sustained in the incident. Three fugitive defendants involved in robbing jewelry stores in Abu-al-Numrus town in Giza were also arrested. Police found an invoice belonging to a jewelry store that was recently robbed.

In the Aswan Governorate, security forces chased extremists suspected of committing a number of recent terrorist actions, including the assassination of two guards. Information received confirms that these elements were using al-Rahmah Mosque as a hideout and a place to store their weapons and explosives.

A number of police ambushes were set up in the area surrounding the mosque last night. The terrorists opened fire on police, who retaliated in kind. The clash resulted in the death of seven terrorists while 35 others were injured, seven critically. Two noncommissioned officers from State Security were also injured, one seriously. Security forces seized a number of automatic rifles, locally-made explosive devices, and a number of antiregime pamphlets.

In Cairo Governorate, security forces besieged building No. 18 in the Imam Sulayman neighborhood of (al-Wayli) and asked the fugitives therein to surrender. The fugitives began to shoot at the forces; one conscript was martyred and another wounded. The forces returned the

fire, killing suspect Ashraf 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Hakim, who had in his possession an automatic rifle, two pistols, and some ammunition.

Police also attacked a hideout in al-Fayyum Street, al-Duwayqah area, and arrested a terrorist. Another fugitive was arrested in a hideout in Mahmud Nasr Street, al-Marj area. None of the suspects or police was hurt.

In al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, police forces besieged building No.(?88) in Abu-Sirriyah, Shubra al-Khaymah. When asked by police to surrender, suspects hiding inside the building began to shoot and the police returned fire. Two prominent leaders, who had participated in several terrorist attacks in Shubra al-Khaymah and al-Qalyubiyah recently, were killed in the shoot-out. At the scene, security forces found three automatic rifles, a pistol, jewelry, and 5,000 Egyptian pounds.

Two al-Jihad Members Arrested for Officer's Murder

NC1003211793 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 6 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Major General 'Ali Abu-al-Nasr, under secretary of the public security agency, said that three al-Jihad Organization terrorists who assassinated Lieutenant Colonel Mahran 'Abd-al-Rahim, Asyut state security officer, are being tracked down in an Upper Egypt governorate. He said security authorities have discovered important clues leading to their arrest.

Abu-al-Nasr added that two prominent members of the organization have been arrested in Sidfa City in possession of an automatic rifle and a pistol. The empty shells found at the scene of the incident are being compared with the weapons seized.

Morocco

Minister Praises 'Mature' Role of Islamic Groups

LD0903145093 Rabat MAP in English 1257 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Rabat, Mar 9 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Habus [Religious Endowments] and Islamic Affairs Abdelkebir Alaoui M'daghri said the committee of ulema (theologians) in charge of examining the moudawana (law regulating family relations: marriage, divorce ...etc) has wound up its works and is likely to make public findings during this month of Ramadan.

Talking to the London-based 'AL-ALAM' magazine which is publishing its first edition the minister said some provisions of this law are likely to be amended because Morocco is a country with a legislation that can evolve just like the sharia (Islamic law) which went through several changes by the ijtihad (jurisprudence).

He also dealt with Islam in Africa and said Moroccan theologians are sent to the continent to teach Islamic precepts and underlined the need for Islamic countries to unite, recalling that Morocco has always worked for this end and that the first Islamic summit was held in Morocco.

Answering a question on Islamic rebirth in Morocco, M'daghri said Islamic groups in Morocco are playing a positive, mature and moderated role and they are a good example for other Islamic countries.

Kyrgyz Muslim Leader Expresses Thanks

LD0903140993 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, Mar. 09 (MAP)—The Moslems of Kyrgyzstan are grateful to Morocco for the efforts it exerts to consolidate brotherhood bonds among Moslems, vice-chairman of the Kyrgyzstan Council of Moslems Shaykh Mohamed Habibullah Zalikhayev told MAP office here. Habibullah, who visited Morocco recently to participate in the international conference of Friday preachers, said Morocco extends a multiform assistance to the Moslem republics of Central Asia, including the training of preachers and teachers of Islamic precepts.

Habibullah added he held talks with Moroccan habbous and religious affairs minister on the possibility of granting scholarships to Kyrgyzstani students to train them at Dar al-Hadith al-Hassaniya in Rabat.

Kyrgyzstan is a republic of the former Soviet Union. It has borders with China and stretches over 198.000 square km with a 5 million strong population 70 percent of whom being Moslems.

Leftist Paper Urges Ceiling on Election Spending

LD0903145493 Rabat MAP in English 1333 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Rabat, Mar. 9 (MAP)—Moroccan daily "AL BAYANE" (Progress and Socialism Party) requested the setting of a ceiling to elections expenditure for candidates and parties for the coming elections in Morocco, scheduled for April 30. AL BAYANE recalls the example of France where the ceiling for each candidate is 500,000 FF [French francs], to moralize political life, and asks for "drastic measures for financing campaigns" in Morocco.

Sudan

Takeover of Egyptian University Reported

NC1003163593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese authorities today took over the buildings of the Cairo University branch in Khartoum, which was shut down last night and turned into a Sudanese university under the name of al-Nilayn [the two Niles]. At 2200 last night, Sudanese authorities posted police and Armed Forces guards

around the buildings housing the university's administration and the Colleges of Law, Arts, and Commerce to prevent the students and faculty from entering the premises until the buildings are taken over.

The MENA correspondent in Khartoum took a tour of the campus this morning. The first thing he saw was a large crowd of confused students, sitting on the sidewalks that lead to the colleges, who had been prevented form entering the campus.

The date of examinations was postponed today from April to July. Early this morning, Sudanese authorities hastened to remove the name Cairo University in Khartoum from the signs posted at the doors of the colleges and raised the Sudanese flag over them. The faculty were prevented from entering the colleges' buildings, even to get their personal belongings.

The MENA correspondent said another strange thing happened today. Sudanese authorities put the Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Secondary School, which is part of the Egyptian education mission in Sudan, under guard and prevented the headmaster and teachers from entering the school to prepare the examinations, which will begin on Saturday [13 March]. They were allowed to enter the school later, after a phone call between Muhammad Nur, head of the Egyptian education mission, and security officials in Khartoum. The conversation established that the school has nothing to do with the Cairo University branch.

Now the big question remains: What will happen to the Egyptian students at the university, which was turned into a Sudanese university? And what will happen to the faculty members? Will they remain, like the teachers of the education mission, until the end of the year?

Student Union Expresses Support

EA1003204393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The executive committee of the General Union of Sudanese Students has sent a cable to the minister of higher education and scientific research, Professor Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, in which it lauded the brave decision to dissolve the Cairo University in Khartoum and the establishment of al-Nilayn [the two Niles] University, which came as a confirmation of the will of the Sudanese nation and its aspiration to civilizational liberation and the endeavor to entrench life under the guidance of Islam.

The cable confirmed the student movement's stand in support of the decision for the sake of Islam and Sudan. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Meets With PLO Representative

AB1003195893 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar [dateline as received]—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, General 'Umar al-Bashir, was briefed on the developments of the Palestinian deportees issue by the Palestinian charge d'affaires. The Palestinian diplomat met Gen. al-Bashir here Monday [8 March] and conveyed to him a verbal message from the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat.

In a press statement the Palestinian charge d'affaires said that he briefed Gen. al-Bashir on the decision of the executive committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) which affirms that the Palestinian delegation to peace talks will not go to the talks unless the resolution of the Security Council on the deportees returning is implemented.

The meeting tackled also the bilateral relation and means of restoring Arab solidarity. The Palestinian diplomat said that Gen. al-Bashir had affirmed to him Sudan's unshakeable stance towards the Palestinian issue.

Ministers Meet With Iraqi Industry Minister

JN1003183793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Staff Navy Brigadier General Salah al-Din Karrar, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has paid tribute to the reconstruction drive witnessed in Iraq to rebuild what the treacherous aggression mounted by the 30-state alliance destroyed.

An Iraqi News Agency correspondent in Khartoum quoted Brig. Gen. Karrar as saying that the accomplishments scored in Iraq under the circumstances of the unfair embargo constitute a miracle. The Sudanese official made these remarks during a meeting he held today with Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, [Iraqi] industry and minerals minister, who is currently visiting Sudan.

During the meeting, which was attended by Sudanese Industry Minister Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa and the Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum, the Iraqi and Sudanese officials discussed prospects for cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the fields of health and mining.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di had earlier in the day met with 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning, and Industry Minister Taj al-Sirr Mustafa. During the two meetings, the conferees affirmed the importance of promoting fraternal bilateral cooperation.

Kuwait

Iraqi Kurdish Leader Talabani Continues Visit

Holds News Conference

LD1003230093 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Secretary General of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Jalal Talabani stressed that the Iraqi Unified National Congress will issue a document recognizing all international resolutions relating to the liberation of Kuwait. At a news conference in Kuwait yesterday, he said that the Iraqi Unified National Congress, which includes most of the Iraqi opposition factions and movements, is in agreement over support for international resolutions relating to the Kuwait-Iraq border and to reparations and Kuwaiti prisoners being held in the jails of the Iraqi regime.

Jalal Talabani stressed in his news conference that Kuwait is an independent and sovereign state and an indivisible part of the Arab nation. He called for ending once and for all the Iraqi regime's historic claims to Kuwait. The PUK secretary general stressed that the Iraqi opposition is in agreement over the essential phases, which are toppling the Baghdad regime and forming a transitional government consisting of all movements, which will take over power according to a democratic system and which will allow all to participate in government in Iraq.

He expressed hope that those countries which supported the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will change their stand toward the Iraqi regime.

Interviewed on Visit, Goals

NC1103090793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1633 GMT 10 Mar 93

["Text" of interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by an unidentified Kuwait Radio reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Jalal Talabani, Iraqi Kurdish leader: What is the nature of your current visit to Kuwait?

[Talabani] The visit is a response to a kind invitation from brother Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The purpose is to strengthen fraternal ties between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples, both victims of tyrant Sadam's dictatorship. The two peoples have long suffered tragedies, tribulations, and disasters caused by the Iraqi dictatorship. The visit is also intended to unify positions and viewpoints on the region's future, to make joint efforts to tighten the noose around the dictatorship, and to foil the Iraqi regime's deceptive attempts to evade the Arab and international siege imposed on it.

[Reporter] Could you tell us about [words indistinct] with Iraq in light of the siege imposed on the Kurds and the UN Human Rights Commission's report that mass graves have been found in northern and southern Iraq?

[Talabani] The dictatorial Iraqi regime committed horrible crimes and appalling massacres against Iraqi Kurds. Dozens of mass graves for thousands of citizens buried alive and without trial have been found. The fate of 182,000 Iraqi Kurds—men, women, and youths—remains unknown. They were taken captive after the 1988 military operations. The fate of over 8,000 other [word indistinct] detainees is still unknown. Add these to the massacres perpetrated by the government when it used chemical weapons against large areas in Iraqi Kurdistan, notably the well-known massacre of Halabjah. The numerous international organizations that visited the region and Iraq collected much evidence on these crimes. These visits include that of [name indistinct], former foreign minister of [country name indistinct] and UN delegate to supervise human rights in Iraq. In his wonderful report to the United Nations last year and his brief report to the UN Human Rights Commission this year, he provided much evidence that the Iraqi dictatorship perpetrated more brutal crimes than those committed by hateful international dictatorships. Economically speaking, the Iraqi siege on the people of Kurdistan continues to deprive the Kurds of foodstuffs and fuel. The Iraqi Government prevents humanitarian organizations from providing medical and food assistance. Sometimes the Iraqi Government plants bombs and mines in relief convoys so that they will explode when they reach the Kurdish region. On other occasions, the Iraqi regime poisons relief aid. The dictatorial regime in Iraq does not hesitate to perpetrate the ugliest crimes against human rights in the Kurdish region. Kurdistan stands fast and has been turned into a fortress for Iraqi opposition advocating an end to the dictatorship and the establishment of a democratic, parliamentary, and multiparty system. The region has been turned into an oasis of democracy where citizens and all Iraqi brothers enjoy rights and democratic freedoms and go about their business freely. This freedom and democracy compensates people for their tragedies and economic difficulties.

[Reporter] What is the shape of the Iraqi opposition and how does it coordinate on Iraq's political future?

[Talabani] The Iraqi opposition is no longer fragmented. The greatest and most important part of it merged into the Iraqi Unified National Congress, which comprises the entire Kurdish opposition represented by the Kurdistan Front, the democratic opposition including the Iraqi communists, the Islamic trend, and a large portion of the pan-Arab trend. Only the Ba'thists allied with Syria and some pan-Arab Iraqis are outside the congress. The Islamic al- Da'wah Party is also outside the congress. But most of the effective opposition at home and abroad is united within the Iraqi Unified National Congress. Attempts to unite the entire Iraqi opposition continue with a view toward mobilizing our people's

energy to save them from the tyrant regime, which rules our people by force, terrorism, and persecution.

[Reporter] I would like now to ask about opposition activity inside Iraq, especially within the Iraqi Armed Forces.

[Talabani] Iraqi opposition depends basically on mobilizing the capabilities of our people in the north, center, and south. We cooperate with the virtuous in the Army and even in the ruling party. There is certainly hope that all our Iraqi people will join forces to save Iraq. There is effective opposition to the dictatorial regime inside the Armed Forces and even inside the ruling party and other government services. The resignation of many Iraqi ambassadors abroad proves this. We expect, God willing, that all virtuous people in the Iraqi opposition in the Kurdish region, the marshlands, outside the country, and inside the Armed Forces and the regime will work together to save our dear Iraq from dictatorship and tyranny and establish the desired democratic, parliamentary, and alternative multiparty system.

[Reporter] How is the unified Iraqi opposition dealing with the world? Are you cooperating and coordinating with other countries?

[Talabani] The Iraqi Unified National Congress enjoys the sympathy of and has good relations with democratic nations. We have good relations with the EC, Britain, and United States. Delegations from the Iraqi opposition visited and met officials in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, and Turkey. There is some kind of Arab and international recognition of the Iraqi opposition and its just cause. We hope Iraqi opposition activity will expand soon. Opposition delegations will soon visit Britain, Europe, and the United States. There are also plans for visits to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Our relations with the world community will, consequently, expand so that we will gain world support and assistance to save Iraq, the region, and the world from dictatorship.

[Reporter] What is the position of the Iraqi opposition on international resolutions, especially the resolution on the demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border?

[Talabani] The Iraqi opposition, particularly the Kurdistan Front, has supported all international resolutions and explicitly stated its support for the demarcation of the border with Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people's right to sovereignty on their territory. We in the Kurdistan Front declared our support for all international resolutions, including the one on the demarcation of the border. Other Iraqi opposition factions implicitly supported the demarcation resolution through their support for all the international resolutions and their pledge to implement them when Iraq is liberated and the opposition takes power. The imminent coming of democratic Iraq, God willing, will respect all obligations and international resolutions, including the establishment of fraternal relations with Kuwait, the recognition of Kuwait's independence and sovereignty [words indistinct] over its territory, and the compliance with the demarcation resolution to end all problems and differences with Kuwait.

[Reporter] How are your relations with the Arab countries?

[Talabani] The Iraqi opposition holds contacts with the Arab brothers to explain the situation and the facts. It also tries to open offices in the Arab countries as channels of contact between the Iraqi people, represented by the opposition, and these countries. We seek to exchange views, unite positions, and win the support and sympathy of the fraternal Arab countries for the struggle of the Iraqi people, who suffer a real tragedy these days.

[Reporter] Could you tell us what the Iraqi opposition position would be if the Iraqi regime again calls for resuming the dialogue with you? Do you trust this regime?

[Talabani] We do not trust this regime, but believe in the saying: Once bitten, twice shy. We have tried to negotiate with the dictatorial regimes in Iraq for 30 years and gained nothing but problems, internal disputes, and differences with the opposition. Now the Kurdistan Front has become a major power in the Iraqi opposition, as represented by the Iraqi National Congress, and accordingly, it cannot make any decision unilaterally; a unanimous decision must be made by the Iraqi opposition, which calls for removing the regime, not for reconciliation with this dictatorial regime.

[Reporter] Is there any conflict between your aspirations to set up a Kurdish state in northern Iraq and the Arab states' commitment to maintain Iraq's unity? What is the nature of your relations with Iran, Turkey, and Syria, the neighboring states that have Kurdish minorities?

[Talabani] The Iraqi democratic movement of Kurdistan seeks to consolidate Iraq's national unity, to oppose the division of Iraq, to establish a single, democratic Iraqi state, and to strengthen the democratic rights, human rights, and the national rights of the Kurdish people within this unified democratic Iraq. So the Kurdish people's demand, which was recognized by previous Iraqi governments in the form of autonomy, is some sort of federation [al- fiditaliyah], which, as you know, is a modern form of [word indistinct] even in countries made up of a single ethnic community. So the [words indistinct] is one nation, but it chose the federal system as a modern system uniting the provinces in the country. Federalism united the United States, Canada, Belgium, and Switzerland. Even India and Pakistan have some sort of federation. So there is no Kurdish demand for independence or for a Kurdish state. What is required is a democratic Iraq [words indistinct] freedom, democracy, and human rights as stipulated in the declaration on human rights, one that could fulfill the legitimate rights of the Kurdish people [words indistinct]. We

believe the meeting of the three countries' foreign ministers was uncalled for, because neither a movement nor an attempt to divide Iraq exists. The greatest threat to Iraq's unity and future comes from the current dictatorial regime in Baghdad. So we have informed the three neighboring countries, Turkey, Syria, and Iran, of the [words indistinct] of the conference and told them there is no attempt or intention to divide Iraq. So it is the duty of these three countries to hold conferences in support of the Iraqi people, saving Iraq and the region from the dictatorial threats that choke Iraq and the entire region.

[Reporter] What do you say to the Iraqi people, choked by this tyrant regime, and what do you say to this tyrant regime in Baghdad?

[Talabani] I salute our heroic Iraqi people, who stand fast and struggle, and I call on them to accelerate efforts to expedite Iraq's freedom from the dictatorship, to unify their ranks, and to work diligently hand in hand to overthrow the dictatorship and bring in a democratic, parliamentary, and pluralistic system. I believe our Iraqi people can achieve this precious hope. As for the ruling tyranny, I can only say that the fate of dictatorships is known. There is no future for dictatorships; the future is for the [word indistinct] and democracy. Tyrannical and dictatorial regimes have no place, but in the dustbin of history.

[Reporter] What do you say to the Kuwaiti people, some of whom remain detained in the Iraqi regime's prisons?

[Talabani] I congratulate the fraternal Kuwaiti people on the liberation and on national days and convey to them the Iraqi people's real feelings of amity and fraternity. I also tell them that the Iraqi people are innocent of the crimes committed by the dictatorial ruling regime against the Kuwaiti people and say to them that once Iraq is freed of the dictatorship [words indistinct], it will be a peaceful country that will seek peace with its neighbors, chief among which are the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

[Reporter] Thank you.

OPEC-Mandated Cuts Said Causing Losses of $750 Million

LD1003131393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Mar (KUNA)—Dr. Isma'il al-Shatti, chairman of the National Assembly's Financial and Economic Committee, said that Kuwait's losses due to the OPEC decision to reduce Kuwaiti oil production is estimated at about $750 million dollars over the coming four months during which the production will be reduced.

Dr. al-Shatti told KUNA that the committee has expressed its resentment at the OPEC stance, which did not appreciate the economic and financial conditions Kuwait is experiencing nor the fact that Kuwait had spent a large part of its financial reserves on the liberation and reconstruction tasks.

He added that "we feel OPEC's lack of understanding of our conditions, a matter which represents a shackle on our future." He said "there are voices inside the Financial Committee which asked Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli about the reasons for not withdrawing from OPEC so long as the organization is damaging the national interest [of Kuwait]." [passage omitted]

He affirmed that unless the OPEC decision is reviewed, it would be very difficult for us in the committee and the Assembly to face public pressure, which would shout and say OPEC has started to damage Kuwait's interest. [passage omitted]

* Interior Minister: Country Still 'Exposed'

93P50094A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Nasir al-Mutayri]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hammud al-Jabir al-Sabah has stated that Kuwait is still exposed and that danger is still on all sides. He thinks that security is unity and will not accept fragmentation and that achieving this is a community obligation.

The interior minister spoke yesterday in a stormy meeting that the National Assembly held to discuss the security situation. Shaykh Ahmad al-Hammud affirmed that the operation to develop a lasting security has not been easy in view of the proliferation of disruptive elements. He said that this confirms the necessity of implanting the comprehensive concept of security as a political, economic, cultural, and social framework.

A number of assembly members spoke in the session and demanded a new secure strategic situation which takes into consideration the results of the Iraqi invasion.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Muhsin Jamal said that the danger that threatens Kuwait is not internal but external, and requires a review of foreign policy and Kuwait's relations with other states.

Deputy Talal al-Sa'id warned of what he called the "fifth column," which still exists with the knowledge of the officials in the country, and said he believed that the responsibility of opposing it lay with all of the Kuwaiti people.

Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah demanded that all administrative agencies that "are being eaten up by materialism and drink" in the Interior Ministry be broken up.

Deputy Ahamad al-Shuray'an called for the abolition of discrimination in applying laws.

*** Government To Hold Municipal Election 'Soon'**

93P50094B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Mar 93 p 3

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[Text] Kuwait—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, expects that the Municipal Council election in Kuwait will be conducted at the end of April or the beginning of May.

Minister al-Dakhil said that the final date for the elections will be set according to an agreement by the National Assembly on the government's draft law regarding modifying some parts of the Kuwaiti municipality law and indicated that the government has demanded that this draft law be given urgent attention.

This step means that Kuwait will soon witness a third electoral battle in less than six months, after the general elections battle in October and the by-election battle in January. A former member of the Municipal Council, Sadiq Khalaf—who won two consecutive terms in the Council—announced yesterday his intention to nominate himself for the Municipal Council election from the Second District (al-Sha'b, al-Da'iyah, al-Dasmih) and said that this election should be conducted before summer so that the weather and the heat do not affect the candidates' activities.

He said that the Municipal Council will consist of 10 elected members representing each of the 10 districts. The government will complete the number by appointing six members in accordance with a resolution issued by the Cabinet.

The political currents and blocs have begun to prepare for the battle, particularly in connection with naming the candidates who have a good chance of winning. It has been noted that some of the candidates have begun early to conclude deals with the residents of Kuwait municipality to win their votes.

*** Officials Offer Contributions for Wall**

93P50094C London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 93 p 6

[Report by Faris al-Salman]

[Text] Kuwait—A member of the Kuwaiti national committee to build the fourth wall, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sa'ud al-Babtayn, has affirmed that some Kuwaiti officials have offered generous contributions of their own money to carry out the fourth wall project, which will protect the Kuwaiti border adjacent to Iraq.

Al-Babtayn said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that contributions come from various quarters, such as schools, mosques, and corporations, and from various individuals, such as employees who contribute a day's, a week's, or a month's salary from their pay.

Al-Babtayn, emphasizing his concern for the protection of the border and for the prevention of more Iraqi infiltration, said that members of the committee meet on a continual basis to study any proposal that would hurry the completion of this project.

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan, Afghan Leaders Meet With King Fahd

BK1103034393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Afghan President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani are reported to have met King Fahd of Saudi Arabia at a dinner in the holy city of Mecca yesterday. Afghanistan's Prime Minister-designate Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar and other Afghan leaders were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, King Fahd paid tribute to Nawaz Sharif's sincere and selfless efforts to help remove differences among rival Afghan factions and thrash out the peace accord. The custodian of the two holiest shrines told the prime minister that he kept himself constantly informed of the negotiations that were being held in Islamabad. He said it was only by virtue of the Pakistani prime minister's political foresight, sincerity, and dedication that the Afghan peace accord was concluded.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the efforts of the custodian of the two holiest shrines are praiseworthy and Pakistan would not have been able to help resolve this serious issue without the Saudi king's consistent cooperation and guidance. He said the accord has led to the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. King Fahd hosted a dinner in honor of the Pakistan and Afghanistan delegations.

An ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN report from the holy city of Mecca says that the stay of the Pakistan and Afghanistan delegations in Saudi Arabia has been extended by one day. The delegations led by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani will hold meetings with King Fahd today. The prime minister broke his Ramadan fast in the nonconstructed part of the House of God and performed his evening prayers at the holy mosque there.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Afghan leaders are scheduled to arrive in Tehran after concluding their visit to Saudi Arabia. An Iranian Foreign Ministry official has said in Tehran that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is expected to meet the Pakistani prime minister and Afghan leaders during their stay in Iran. He disclosed that the Afghan leaders may stay in Tehran for several days to discuss the establishment of the working group proposed to be set up under the peace accord signed by the eight Afghan mojahedin groups three days ago.

Uzbekistan Religious Affairs Minister Arrives

LD1003134493 Riyadh SPA in English 1247 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, March 10, SPA—Uzbekistan's Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments Abdulghani Abdudullah and the accompanying delegation arrived here today.

They were welcomed by 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Wasi, the minister of pilgrimage and endowments, and a number of officials.

While in the Kingdom Abdudullah will hold talks with the Saudi officials on issues pertaining to arrangements for this year's pilgrimage season as well as aspects of cooperation between the Kingdom and Uzbekistan in the field of Islamic affairs.

Discusses Pilgrimage Arrangements

LD1003210293 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, March 10, SPA—The Minister of Haj and Endowments 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Wasi met here on Wednesday [10 March] with the Uzbekistan Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments Abdulghani Abdudullah to discuss the arrangements and preparations made to receive Uzbek pilgrims.

'Abd-al-Wasi reviewed the efforts and projects made by the Saudi government to provide the best possible services for pilgrims, in line with the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Abdudullah praised the efforts exerted by the kingdom to support Islamic causes and extend assistance to Islamic countries and minorities all over the world.

Agreement Signed With UK To Avoid Double Taxation

LD1003205593 Riyadh SPA in English 1926 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, March 10, SPA—The minister of finance and national economy and the British Ambassador to the Kingdom Alan Monroe Wednesday [10 March] signed a bilateral accord between the kingdom and Great Britain to avoid double taxation on the revenues of international air transport operations and the rewards of employees in institutions performing air transport operations in the kingdom, Britain and Ireland.

The accord reflects the two countries' bilateral cooperation in the field of air transports as it involves some tax exemptions on the activities of airliners in both states and Saudi and British citizens working in these companies.

Yemen

Bomb Reportedly Explodes Near British Embassy

JN1003154593 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Sanaa, 10 Mar (INA)—A highly explosive bomb went off near the British Embassy in the Yemeni capital Sanaa at 0200 a.m. today.

An official Yemeni security source said in statements published here today that the explosion had demolished part of the outer fence of the embassy.

The source added that the security organs were continuing their investigations into the causes of the incident.

Government To List Nuclear Suppliers Within 2 Weeks

NC1103093293 Paris AFP in English 0851 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, March 11 (AFP) - Iraq has promised to provide a list of its nuclear suppliers within the next two weeks, the head of a UN weapons inspection team said here Thursday [11 March].

Dhimitrios Perrikos said shortly before departing for Bahrain that the full list of suppliers was needed to ensure President Saddam Husayn's nuclear programme was not relaunched.

The Iraqi authorities would submit the list to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, which has handled destruction of Iraq's nuclear programme under UN Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"I am sure now they will keep the promise," he said.

Only Wednesday, Perrikos said the Iraqis were still holding out on giving details of the network which allowed them to launch their nuclear programme.

The United Nations ordered the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under ceasefire terms for the Gulf war which ended in February 1991.

A 19-member group of UN chemical, biological and ballistic arms experts is due here Thursday to continue inspection of the country's military arsenals.

'Dual-Use Machines' Discovered

NC1103115793 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, March 11 (AFP) - Iraq has promised to provide a list of its nuclear suppliers within the next two weeks, the head of a UN weapons inspection team said here Thursday [11 March].

Dhimitrios Perrikos has also said however his team found dual-use machines that Iraq should have declared because they could be used for nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

The inspection chief said he held a final meeting on Thursday during which the Iraqis agreed to complete the list of suppliers, 90 percent of which they claim to have already surrendered.

Despite good Iraqi cooperation, the week-long mission discovered "dual-use machine tools that could be employed for nuclear weapons or civilian purposes," he said.

"The tools should have been declared to the UN inspection team but had not," said Perrikos. "None of the machine tools were being used for banned activities when inspected."

The United Nations ordered the elimination of all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction after the 1991 war for Kuwait.

"I cannot say we saw anything that is prohibited at the sites we visited," Perrikos said. Of the 28 sites inspected, three of them were new, he said, adding they had been photographed for analysis.

As part of a rotation, a 19-member group of UN chemical, biological and ballistic arms experts is due here Thursday to continue inspection of the country's military arsenals.

David Franz, its American leader, has said the new mission would cover a variety of areas. "We will be visiting sites we have seen before or new sites. We are free to visit any site or installation in Iraq," he said.

A chemical and biological weapons expert in the U.S. Army, Franz declined to say how long the inspectors would stay on the 53rd disarmament mission.

U.S. Urged To Answer 'Peaceful Initiative'

JN1003201193 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 6 Mar 93 p 1

[Editorial: "All Facts Before the American People"]

[Text] It is high time the American people learned the truth about what happened. It is high time the American people found out the speciousness of the Bush administration's decisionmakers' claims and arguments before and after the sinful aggression against proud and steadfast Iraq.

The Bush administration deployed all the machinery of deception at its disposal and recruited all the minds and expertise seasoned in the misrepresentation of incontestable facts, with a view to denting Iraq's peaceful agenda and the honest initiative that it proposed shortly after 2 August 1990 to ward off the specter of war and work out the crisis so as to satisfy the rights of all the parties concerned.

In an interview with U.S. journalist John Albert, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn noted the duplicitous approach of American politicians under Bush and the U.S. media's devious role in misrepresenting Iraqi decisions and positions, as well as suppressing facts and manipulating events. They aimed, the president explained, to let things take the inexorable course of war and aggression to advance a U.S.-Zionist scheme that had been in preparation for years to arrest Iraq's advancement.

In humanly significant remarks, leader President Saddam Husayn showed how tolerant, magnanimous, truly chivalrous, and high-minded the Iraqi people are. Thus endowed, and being a people who approaches its present in a spirit of optimism and openness, we are eager to close the painful chapter of Iraqi-American

relations and work sincerely with Bill Clinton's administration toward forging fresh relations founded on mutual interests and mutual respect free of any threats, aggression, or tutelage in any shape or form.

President Saddam Husayn's message to the American people and to President Clinton is a new Iraqi peaceful initiative which should be welcomed and should receive the appropriate attention if the other party wanted to open a new leaf in bilateral relations. This initiative should also be welcomed if the other party is aware of the degree of injustice inflicted on the Iraqi people as a result of the falsifications, lies, fabrications, and hypocrisy adopted by the Bush administration which dragged the U.S. media to believe in them to make public opinion accept and bless the aggression against Iraq.

The U.S. media succeeded in launching a campaign of odious hatred against Iraq and its wise leadership. It was able, thanks to its techniques and tools, to turn the facts upside down and to prevent Americans from seeing the facts, in both the political and military arenas, and from realizing the real objective and motives of the hostile American stand.

Out of our belief in just peace and based on our concern for the prevalence of security and stability in our country and throughout the region, we hope that the U.S. Administration, under Clinton, will deal in a positive spirit with the Iraqi initiatives and rid itself of the vicious grudges and intentions inherited from the previous administration. We also hope that the U.S. media will play a fair and responsible role, abandon their language of instigation and ignoring facts, and look at things with one perspective to serve the interests of both people and countries.

Al-Tikriti Discusses Relations With Arabs

PM1003121093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Mar 93 p 4

[Interview with Barzan al-Tikriti, "political adviser to the Iraqi president," by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Rabat; date not given]

[Text] [Ma'ruf] There is an atmosphere favoring the normalization of Arab relations with Iraq.

[Al-Tikriti] If the Arab brothers who adopted an uncomfortable position against Iraq during the crisis wish to normalize relations, we have no objection.

[Ma'ruf] Does raising the level of the head of the Egyptian interests office in Baghdad form part of that atmosphere?

[Al-Tikriti] No. So far there have been no steps to normalize relations with Egypt. The Egyptians wanted to send a charge d'affaires and we welcomed that.

[Ma'ruf] Have any meetings taken place with the Arab states which took part in the coalition against Iraq?

[Al-Tikriti] No meetings have taken place between us and the Arab brothers until now.

[Ma'ruf] Are there no indications of imminent meetings?

[Al-Tikriti] No. Thus far, te atmosphere is still as it was during the crisis. However, we believe that the general Arab atmosphere is moving toward clearing the Arab air after diagnosing the Arab reality and realizing the importance of solidarity and opening a new chapter. And as I said, for our part, we are for closing the chapter of the painful past, learning from our previous experiences, and moving toward the future with open hearts.

[Ma'ruf] Your relations with what was termed states of the Arab solution to the Gulf crisis are dominated by a kind of coolness.

[Al-Tikriti] No coolness has occurred in our relations with any state that adopted a balanced position during the crisis. Relations are still the same, and the position of these states represents a good case in the Arab situation.

[Ma'ruf] Iraqi officials always say that the blockade against Iraq is an Arab blockade in the first instance. So can the Arab solution states lift the blockade following the relaxation in the Arab atmosphere?

[Al-Tikriti] The state which adopted a balanced position and has a border with Iraq has not closed this border. If the other surrounding parties want to open a new chapter at the Arab level, they must open the borders with us.

[Ma'ruf] Does your current Arab tour fall within this framework?

[Al-Tikriti] It falls within the framework of what you called the atmosphere of Arab relaxation. Besides, there are bilateral relations between us and the states which I visited: Yemen, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, and Morocco. There are outstanding issues with these states. We discussed ways of settling them.

[Ma'ruf] Is there a specific initiative?

[Al-Tikriti] No, there is no initiative.

[Ma'ruf] What stage has been reached in the attempts to improve relations with the new U.S. Administration?

[Al-Tikriti] Iraq took the initiative on 19 January, namely the unilateral cease-fire initiative. And Iraq is still committed—in good faith—to this initiative, in order to create a favorable atmosphere for dialogue, solve problems through dialogue, and reach an understanding on bilateral issues and common interests in a manner acceptable to the two sides.

[Ma'ruf] Whenever the Security Council's discussion of the blockade against Iraq draws close, there are reports that Iraq is still keeping part of its mass destruction weapons.

[Al-Tikriti] Such reports will not be repeated for long. The issue is unclear at present, but it is bound to become

clear. Many people have begun to cast doubt on these allegations, that Iraq is concealing weapons. There are parties—regrettably, some of them are Arabs—trying to portray Iraq in such a manner. The truth is that Iraq is cooperative and serious in its cooperation with UN missions in order to implement UN Security Council resolutions. And Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz emphasized this to the Security Council. The inspectors themselves submitted reports to the United Nations and the Security Council, emphasizing Iraq's compliance. Some of them emphasized that Iraq was free from chemical weapons, long-range missiles, and nuclear weapons.

[Ma'ruf] The subject being raised now is the question of human rights in Iraq, especially with regard to the inhabitants of the marshlands.

[Al-Tikriti] Everything that is being said is nonsense, allegation, and falsification of the facts. You, and anyone interested, can go to southern Iraq and see that life is normal there and that nothing of what the Western media say exists. The Western media rely on what Iran says. No other quarter except Iran utters such talk.

[Ma'ruf] And what does Iran want from that?

[Al-Tikriti] Iran is inciting a number of Iraqis to create problems for Iraq. And anyone who creates problems always has objectives. With regard to Iran, it may not announce them, but we are aware of them and know them. However, what is good for Iran is to normalize relations with Iraq. This is because the two countries are neighbors and bound by numerous ties. And cooperation is in their interests. So if they love their country and want to serve it, officials in Tehran should normalize their relations with us, because it is in our and their interests.

[Ma'ruf] Are there Sudanese endeavors to that end?

[Al-Tikriti] I have no information about that. But it is clear that there are endeavors, and I also point out that they have produced no results.

[Ma'ruf] And with Syria as well?

[Al-Tikriti] I have no accurate information.

[Ma'ruf] How do you view the Turkish step to send a charge d'affairs to its embassy in Baghdad?

[Al-Tikriti] It is a good and positive step, in view of the common interests of the two sides. The correct thing is to normalize relations between us, although Turkey took an unjustifiable position against Iraq.

[Ma'ruf] And what has been achieved in the negotiations with regard to allowing Iraq to resume exporting its oil?

[Al-Tikriti] Negotiations with the United Nations have been suspended, because the conditions were harsh, as far as Iraq is concerned. Iraq rejects them, and if the United Nations wants to find an acceptable mechanism, we have no objection.

[Ma'ruf] How long can Iraq survive without exporting its oil?

[Al-Tikriti] The comfortable thing for Iraq is to export its oil. But if exporting the oil is subjected to conditions that harms sovereignty and the people's dignity, Iraq has decided to live without oil. There are many Arab states which have no oil and yet live a reasonable life. And we are awaiting natural conditions, that is our resumption of the exporting process, because our people are in urgent need of the oil revenues.

[Ma'ruf] There has been talk once again about the resumption of negotiations between the central government and the Kurds.

[Al-Tikriti] There were negotiations in 1991, and four months later we reached a draft agreement. The Kurds, or those who negotiated with us, requested time to discuss the draft with the other Kurdish parties. But they went and did not return. And we now emphasize once again that Baghdad's doors are open to them if they want to continue negotiations with the government.

[Ma'ruf] Do you believe that the Kurdish parties have lost their will?

[Al-Tikriti] Yes, I believe so. It is their link with the West which prevented the signing of the agreement two years ago.

[Ma'ruf] Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani?

[Al-Tikriti] Yes, the two are linked with the West, which ordered them not to sign.

[Ma'ruf] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that his government will submit a complaint to the United Nations against Iraq because it continues to claim Kuwait.

[Al-Tikriti] The Kuwaitis are blind, and we hope they will recover their sight.

[Ma'ruf] What is Iraq's position toward the State of Kuwait?

[Al-Tikriti] Iraq recognized Resolution 687, and we are participating in the border demarcation committees. What more do they want from us?

[Ma'ruf] And the prisoners?

[Al-Tikriti] We have no Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti prisoners. And what Kuwait stirs up from time to time is designed to portray Iraq as not serious in its dealings with the United Nations and its resolutions. I want to ask: Why should Iraq hold Kuwaitis? We demand the formation of an Arab committee comprising all the Gulf states, except Kuwait, and other Arab states. And we are willing to open all Iraq for inspection.

[Ma'ruf] But Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid issued a statement on the prisoners.

[Al-Tikriti] That was a negative position by the League against Iraq. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is an intellectual figure and represents through his position all the Arabs, not a particular party. When he deals with an Arab issue, he should deal with it objectively and from an open angle, not in a biased way. The statement he issued was biased and contained many misleading views. I personally regret what was issued by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Anyway, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the issue.

[Ma'ruf] Will you raise the issue in the Arab League's next session?

[Al-Tikriti] We registered our opposition.

[Ma'ruf] With regard to the democratic question, is there any possibility of a political relaxation or a dialogue with the opposition?

[Al-Tikriti] Iraq had and still has a complete program for democracy, including the election of the president of the republic. It was decided that that would take place in January 1990, but the conspiracy came before that and the entire program was halted.

Today the parliament exists, and so do the press and freedom of opinion. The press law and party pluralism were discussed and endorsed. But can a country which is in a state of war and siege propose a loose democracy?

We are not in favor of an unrestrained democracy. We are in favor of a phased democracy which society, the state, and all political sides can reach accommodation. We will implement such a democracy sooner or later. But in our present circumstances the important thing is to safeguard our country.

[Ma'ruf] How do you view the Arab situation?

[Al-Tikriti] It is at its worst, and continues to deteriorate. If the Arabs want and are eager to stop this deterioration, Iraq supports this wish. All the wagers on Iraq by some Arab parties have failed. And when we say now that Iraq is for Arab solidarity and for closing the chapter of the past, we are not in a position of weakness, but rather in a position of strength.

[Ma'ruf] And what about the Arab-Israeli negotiations?

[Al-Tikriti] Iraq is not a party to the Palestinian issue. It has no borders with Israel, nor is Israeli occupying part of its territory. Iraq is linked to the issue from a pan-Arab angle only. If the Arab states directly concerned with the conflict and the Palestinians solve their problem with Israel and say that this solution is comfortable and acceptable, we will bless and accept it.

[Ma'ruf] That position is in line with an article by you published last July, in which you said Iraq had offered a great deal for the sake of the Palestinian cause and no one could ask it to do more that that.

[Al-Tikriti] I still believe in what was said in the article. Iraq was defeated as a result of the Palestinian cause. So what more is Iraq required to offer?

[Ma'ruf] Does that mean the discontinuation of Iraq's interest in the Arab issues?

[Al-Tikriti] Do you want us to be more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves, as we were in the past? We have paid a heavy price... our country, progress, and freedom. The Palestinians themselves have not offered Palestine what we have offered. Now we as a government are unable to persuade the Iraqi citizens to take interest in any issue except theirs. We have done more than our duty.

The Iraqis now need to think about their country. They need the wealth of their country. We need every hour of our time to ease the crisis and improve our position.

The Arabs should not expect anything from Iraq. Iraq is one of the Arab states. If the Arabs decide tomorrow to provide aid to a certain quarter and Iraq is asked to contribute a percentage of this aid, we will not do that as we used to do in the past. We will say, wait; we must study our capabilities, because Iraq needs its wealth.

And if the Arabs decide to fight Israel, we will not send our forces immediately. We will study and discuss the decision with the people's representatives and the party in order to obtain approval to send forces.

The situation is different now, and we will not repeat our past practices. Because it is the Arabs who sought and worked to cause Iraq to be in its present condition.

[Ma'ruf] You are being unfair to the Arabs, Your Excellency Mr. Minister.

[Al-Tikriti] I am unfair to no one. Iraq has been sold in the cattle market on more than one occasion, and by Arab parties. And Iraq will not agree to be sold and bought once again.

Paper Condemns UN 'Connivance' With U-2 Flights

JN1003142293 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 10, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, called on the United Nations to reconsider its rights and duties to deal with the hostile violations by the American spy-plane (U-2) of Iraq's sovereignty and security which exceeded all limits.

The daily said in an article today that Iraq's recent letter to the United Nations on the activities of these planes stressed the necessity of a serious review by the United Nations to cancel these spying missions, especially that they contradicted the simplest rules of international law.

It said that the United Nations' silence and its attempts to lessen the importance and gravity of this question would only be considered connivance on the part of the United Nations which was rejected and condemned by Iraq. For according to all standards it represented an aggression with an umbrella of international legitimacy. The matter that constituted an insult not only to the Special Commission on Iraq but also to the United Nations' credibility. It urged the United Nations to stop using legitimacy as a cover for aggressions and conspiracies against our people and leadership.

'Airspace Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN1003142493 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, Mar 10, INA—Iraq has informed the Arab League (AL) of the repeated U.S., British and French planes' violations of its airspace, coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, threatening Iraq's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

In a letter to the League's Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's AL permanent representatives said the American, British and French military aircraft had continued their violations on Mar. 6 and 7 instant, flying 120 hostile sorties over Iraq. An account of these violations was attached with this letter.

The Iraqi official called for distributing the letter to the AL member states to inform them of the facts.

Protest for 8 March

JN1103113693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1036 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (INA)—Iraq has once again protested the continued violation of its airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft taking off from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as the serious threat these violations pose to its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In a message addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft carried out 30 hostile air sorties last Monday [8 March]. An account of these violations was enclosed with this letter.

Iraq's representative requested that this letter be distributed to the Arab League member states.

Source Cited on Effects of No-Fly Zone on Agriculture

JN1103103993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA)—A responsible Iraqi agricultural source said that the decision banning flights south of 32d parallel has caused big problems in the field of combating agricultural blights, particularly in the palm forests in southern Iraq.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH published today, the responsible agricultural source added that the decision banning flights has affected the tasks of combating blights in palm orchards in the southern governorates, and caused the spread of insect pests [words indistinct], which are expected to cause heavy losses to the next season's production of dates due to the inefficiency of the means of combating pests from the ground as an alternative to crop dusters which are used for these purposes.

The source pointed out that the Iraqi agricultural protection organs are currently getting ready to fight waves of desert locusts after news of epidemics on the Red Sea coasts and in Saudi Arabia. The source stressed that necessary measures have been taken to confront this possibility regardless of the restrictions imposed by the decision banning flights south of the 32d parallel, and the inability of the Iraqi crop dusters to fly, in addition to the lack of pesticides as a result of the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Patriotic Front Marks Kurdish Autonomy Anniversary

JN1003153893 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 10, INA—The Patriotic and National Progressive Front has affirmed that the autonomy rule in Kurdistan area in Iraq was truly a national, political, social and civilizational accomplishment.

In a communique issued today on the issuance of the autonomy rule law on March 11, the front said that this accomplishment had unmasked all traitors who released the false slogans and pretended the struggle for the Kurdish national rights.

The front made it clear that what is now happening in Kurdistan area like the murder, crimes and scandals under the American spears protection was a continuity of course of the traitors who serve the foreigner and endeavour to liquidate aspirations of the Kurdish people under the autonomy rule law.

The front expressed high confidence and solid faith in capability of the Kurdish masses and their great struggle to kick out the stooges and traitors and the foreign troops which turned Kurdistan into a seminary of corruption and moral degredation by their criminal and shameful practices.

Kurdish Radio Cited on Northern Residents' Exile

LD1103112393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime is forcing people living in the north to migrate to other areas.

The Kurdistan patriotic radio last night said the Iraqi Government recently declared the region of Qara Anjir a military zone and exiled its residents to Samawa and Ramadiyah.

The residents of the region of Shu'an and Qadir Karam were also recently forced to other parts of the country by the Baghdad regime, the radio said.

The radio did not say how many people were exiled.

Palestinian Rejection of Invitation 'Surprising'

TA1003154493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In Jerusalem, there is fear that the Palestinian refusal to accept the invitations to the talks might jeopardize the peace talks, or at most that the talks will start without them. Primarily, however, Jerusalem regards this move as surprising. Although this is just a protest move by the Palestinians—after all, it does not make much difference whether they receive the invitations directly or later because they know when the talks are due to begin, and will respond when they see fit—the fact that they refused to accept the invitations is surprising.

A few minutes ago, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin issued a somewhat harsh Israeli reaction. He says: The Palestinian rejection of the invitation to the talks might be yet another link in the chain of their missing opportunities which created the Palestinian tragedy, starting in 1947. I hope that this is only a spectacular gesture, and that the Palestinians will eventually take advantage of this window of opportunities to prevent further bloodshed.

Beilin further says: Israel hopes that the other Arab partners will attend the negotiating table in any event. That is to say that he hopes the talks will resume even if the Palestinians decide to boycott them. [passage omitted]

Rabin Hopes for Retraction

TA1003184993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening expressed the hope that the Palestinians will eventually retract their negative response to the invitation for the next round of talks, due to be held in Washington next month. Tali Nir reports:

[Begin Rabin recording] I hope that they will change their mind. Still, their negative reaction today indicates that the Palestinians have not learned nor have they forgotten anything. As usual, they repeat their sorry history of missing opportunities to solve the problems. Experience so far has proven that every time they missed an opportunity, the Palestinian cause has suffered yet another blow. At the same time, I find it inconceivable that they will have the power to prevent the continuation of the peace talks. [end recoding]

Rabin Rules Out Unilateral Moves During Talks

TA1003170493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the defense minister and prime minister, today called on the settlers of the Qatif Bloc to be extra careful in the Gaza Strip. Rabin met today with representatives of the settlement of Gan Or, where one of the settlers, Uri Megidish, was murdered on 8 March. Our military correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

The defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are doing all that they can, within the boundaries of the law, to increase the security of the residents of the Gaza Strip, the prime minister told the Gan Or settlers when they met at his bureau in Tel Aviv. Rabin heard the settlers' sentiments following the murder of Uri Megidish. You are living amid a hostile population, and therefore, must be extra careful, Rabin told them.

The settlers also demanded that the prime minister prevent the cabinet ministers from making statements regarding a unilateral pullout or withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. In response, the prime minister said that the government's position is that no unilateral moves should be made in the course of the peace negotiations.

No Breakthrough Expected in U.S. Trip

TA1003200193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in Tel Aviv on 10 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sukenik] Mr. Prime Minister, tomorrow night you will be leaving for an important visit in Washington, including your first meeting with President Clinton. Is there any justification for expecting a breakthrough in the peace process following your meeting with the U.S. President?

[Rabin] I would not like anyone to believe that a breakthrough can be attained in a single meeting. I hope and believe that we will be able to reach understanding regarding the directions of the future activity of both Israel and the United States that would lead to a breakthrough.

[Sukenik] Recently, there have been reports regarding some strategic-military arrangements, which you will perhaps try to make with the President, which may later facilitate arrangements with Syria. Are these reports well founded?

[Rabin] I will not attempt to discuss the details of the discussions that will be held in Washington. Nevertheless, many of the reports I have read, including those coming from the United States, sound unfounded to me, at least with regard to the facts as I know them.

[Sukenik] Do you mean mainly the reports regarding a withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] Your words, not mine.

Hails Absence of 'Double-Talk'

TA1103062793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Palestinians' refusal to join the peace talks proves that they have not learned anything. Nevertheless, the prime minister does not believe that the Palestinians will be able to prevent the continuation of the peace talks. Mr. Rabin was speaking at the annual convention of the Advertising Association. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports.

[Begin recording] [Balsenboim] Prime Minister Rabin came to the Advertising Association's annual convention to speak about the importance of advertising and marketing in the economy, but instead found himself responding to journalists' questions on the Palestinian issue and their refusal to attend the next round of the peace talks. [passage omitted]

[Rabin] I must say that a foundation of trust and credibility has been established with the current administration, especially following the visit of Secretary of State Warren Christopher. I must say that this time the Americans said the same things both to us and to the other side. There was no double-talk. This could be the reason why today the Palestinians rejected the invitations to resume the peace talks: because the Americans showed credibility and stuck to what we had agreed on between ourselves and to the understandings we had reached. They did not deviate from them or create a situation in which the Palestinians received an impression different from ours. [end recording]

Shamir Hopes Rabin Fails in U.S. Trip

TA1103110393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Yitzhaq Shamir by Razi Barqay on the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Barqay] Good morning to Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Barqay] Let us talk about the pointers or advice you would like to give Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin before he leaves for his important trip to the United States.

[Shamir] I hope he fails.

[Barqay] Are you hoping his trip will be a failure?

[Shamir] Definitely. I do not want the U.S. Administration to accept his proposal, widely reported by the media, calling on the United States to intervene and pressure Israel to hurry and hand over the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip to the Arabs.

[Barqay] But I thought that a successful trip by the prime minister to the United States would constitute a triumph for the entire country?

[Shamir] That is how things should be and that is generally the case; however, if we, with our iniquities, have reached a situation where we come to ask the U.S. Government to pressure us and help us get rid of parts of our homeland, then it would be better to fail and have the Americans stick to the line they took during the Likud's tenure, when they let the parties negotiate between themselves under the agreed conditions.

[Barqay] In short, do you fear that the Americans will set such a generous trap that Mr. Rabin will walk right into it?

[Shamir] It is not a question of a trap. I think that the U.S. policy of nonintervention in the negotiations between Israel and the Arabs was correct and remains so. What we are now asking for is that the United States pressure us.

[Barqay] You know that people will say that this is exactly what Yitzhaq Shamir wanted all those years. They will say that you wanted the United States to refrain from intervening so that you could simply drag things out.

[Shamir] I never sought to procrastinate. I merely wanted to conduct negotiations in which we and not outside parties called the shots. The Americans understood this very well, and in my opinion this remains the administration's true conviction even today. They do not need to resolve everything for us.

[Barqay] When you read in the newspapers, Yitzhaq Shamir, that President al-Asad has changed his positions and now seeks full peace with Israel....

[Shamir, interrupting] Look, I do not particularly believe what is written in your papers.

[Barqay] I see.

[Shamir] Regrettably, I do not have enough data today, but while I did possess the information I did not discern such a keen desire for peace with Israel on al-Asad's part. This is not clear even today.

[Barqay] What if you knew that the man really wanted peace with Israel?

[Shamir] Terrific; let him let us keep the Golan Heights.

[Barqay] In other words, you are talking about peace in return for peace?

[Shamir] Certainly. Do you think we are some kind of empire? I have yet to see any international empires relinquish one inch of their soil. Only little Eretz Yisra'el, the tiny State of Israel, is expected to volunteer large parts of its territory to every Arab party. We are supposed to give the Gaza Strip to that party; the Golan

Heights to this party; with Judaea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem going to a third. What will be left for us?

[Barqay] But you recall who set the precedent?

[Shamir] What precedent?

[Barqay] The Likud.

[Shamir] That is not true. Look, when Menahem Begin decided to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula, he did not consider it a part of Eretz Yisra'el. He also thought that by doing so he was fulfilling Israel's part of Security Council Resolution 242 and bringing peace. He believed that he was precluding any discussion of East Jerusalem or the Golan Heights. The fact is that it was Begin who proposed applying Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

[Barqay] Your tough statements have given me the impression that you would gladly prefer to be going to Washington instead of Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Shamir] Look, I do not care about myself. Yitzhaq Shamir never worried about his private ego very much. I would prefer to see a prime minister go who would defend Israel's real interests.

[Barqay] Do you have no confidence in Yitzhaq Rabin's determination?

[Shamir] He is determined to do bad things that will harm Israel's future. The Golan Heights should remain part of our territory. This is an absolute must on every count.

[Barqay] What about the Gaza Strip?

[Shamir] The Gaza Strip as well! We will take care of the matter. There are serious problems there, but we will resolve them in due course. I am opposed to taking implausible steps, but we have to solve that issue. There were already domestic problems in the kingdom of Eretz Yisra'el back in ancient times. [passage omitted]

[Barqay] Before I conclude this interview, I simply must hear you wish Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin luck on his U.S. tour.

[Shamir] No. I would wish him luck only on the condition that he not touch any part of Eretz Yisra'el that is under our control. That is all. Rabin should ask the Americans to adhere to the agreements that preceded the Madrid conference.

[Barqay] To sit quietly on the sidelines?

[Shamir] Not quietly. They can show interest; however, the actual control and handling of the negotiations should be in the hands of Israel.

[Barqay] Thank you, Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir.

Rabin Urged Not To Wait for Washington's 'Lazy Pace'

TA1003144993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "No Time"]

[Text] Apparently—according to Washington spokesmen—the peace talks will resume on 19 April, that is, in over a month. Washington, seemingly Jerusalem, and definitely Damascus, all remain unmoved. There is time.

Meanwhile, the Golan Heights campaign is again gathering momentum under the auspices of the territories' residents. The Qatif Bloc settlers are also launching a war through the front door. Meanwhile, mutual killing continues. The intifadah, which used to hide in Palestinian towns and villages, has become a face-to-face war everywhere.

Al-Asad may have time. Clinton has all the time in the world. The Palestinians, who have waited till now to promote their cause, may have time. Israel has no time. This government has no time.

The prolonged and stepped up campaign by Golan, West Bank, and Gaza Strip settlers undermines the government and its ability to promote the peace process. Daily slayings will inhibit proper government functioning. Rabin will never win the battle against all the knife wielders. His only chance of beating both the knife wielders and "the national camp" in the next general election is by scoring a political achievement, a series of political achievements. An accord with Syria, autonomy in the territories as an interim stage; this should be achieved as long as he still has partners to discuss these issues with.

He ought to start running, rather than wait for the lazy pace of Washington. "Peace Now" has never been a more adept slogan than at present.

Foreign Minister Peres Holds Talks With Germany, EC

WA1103114093

For reportage on the visit to Europe by Foreign Minister Peres, including his talks in Bonn with German Chancellor Kohl and German Foreign Minister Kinkel, and his visit to and news conference at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, see the International Affairs and Germany sections of the 11 March West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Russian Embassy: Accounts of Envoy's Remarks Exaggerated

TA1103114993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Russian Ambassador to Israel Aleksandr Bovin has said Israel has nothing to fear from the current contacts between Western European countries and the

PLO. At his meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin yesterday, Bovin said such contacts were just another way of promoting the peace process. However, the Russian Embassy says some of the press accounts of the ambassador's statements were exaggerated. Embassy sources stressed that Moscow's commitment to the Madrid format is unchanged. Jack Katzenell reports:

The Russian Embassy official who was present at yesterday's meeting says some of the media accounts of the conversation have been exaggerated. The official says Ambassador Aleksandr Bovin did not say the Palestinian delegation has, in any case, a close affinity with the PLO. He did say that Israel has nothing to fear from the meeting between the British minister of state and the PLO, as this was another way of promoting the peace process.

Russian sources say the ambassador's statement does not indicate a departure from the Madrid format, in which the PLO has no status. Russia is a cosponsor of the peace process, and its commitment to the Madrid agreement is unshaken. The ambassador's statement should be viewed on the background of Russia's existing relations with the PLO, which has had an embassy in Moscow since 1988, when the PLO proclaimed the state of Palestine.

However, a senior Israeli official commented that Moscow's Middle East policy had undergone a complete revolution since the end of the Cold War: from hostility to Israel and unreserved support for the Arabs to a much more balanced position. He did not believe the Russian policy on the peace talks had changed, and this was confirmed by the Russian Embassy.

Soviet Spy Released From Jail; Lawyer Denies Deal

TA1003135293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] We will now go over to the Ashmoret prison, where the spy Shabtay Kalmanovich [convicted of spying for the former Soviet Union] was released a few minutes ago. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports from the broadcasting van outside the prison:

[Begin live relay] [Semrik] At exactly 1510, Shabtay Kalmanovich emerged from the Ashmoret prison after serving five years and three months. He was smiling and looked slightly dazzled. He appeared healthy. He was wearing a black T-shirt, a jacket, and matching blue pants. Kalmanovich would not say even one word to the numerous journalists and photographers surrounding him. He entered the Pontiac of his lawyer, Amnon Zikhroni, and drove away to an as yet unknown destination. We spoke with Shlomo Rabelsky, one of Kalmanovich's attorneys.

[Rabelsky] Convict Kalmanovich was pardoned today. He is leaving this place a very unhealthy man and he intends to rebuild his life.

[Semrik] Where exactly?

[Rabelsky] Most probably in Israel. He is an Israeli.

[Semrik] Has he expressed such a wish?

[Rabelsky] He has.

[Semrik] Does he not plan to fly back to Russia?

[Rabelsky] No, not to live there.

[Semrik] Who are the people scheduled to come to Israel as part of the swap deal?

[Rabelsky] There is no swap deal whatsoever. I know nothing about a swap deal. He was pardoned by the president of the state, with the recommendation of the prime minister, and there is no question of a swap. [end relay]

Agreement on Russian Refuseniks

TA1003150593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has shortened the prison term of Shabtay Kalmanovich and he is to be freed immediately. The president's decision is based on the recommendation of Justice Minister David Liba'i and with the consent of Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Peres, and the defense establishment.

Kalmanovich was convicted of crimes against the security of the state, and was sentenced to nine years in prison. He has already served two thirds of the jail term.

The Kalmanovich release was worked out in an agreement with the Russian authorities, the terms of which also include a pledge to allow for the immigration to Israel of refuseniks who have been barred from leaving the country for security reasons. The Russians are also expected to provide information relating to missing Israelis.

Link to Pollard Case

TA1103060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] A senior Justice Ministry official says U.S. President Bill Clinton should pardon Jonathan Pollard, convicted of spying for Israel and currently serving a life term in prison. The official said the United States should follow Israel's lead of freeing Shabtay Kalmanovich, a convicted Soviet spy, who was released yesterday. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] As Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin prepares to leave for the United States, the official line is that it would not be proper to discuss publicly the issues that will come up in his meeting with President Bill Clinton, certainly concerning such a sensitive issue. That position was stated last night in the Knesset plenum by Minister Hayim Ramon in response to a question from Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan.

In the Justice Ministry, a senior official said an immediate association was made with the case of Jonathan Pollard when Justice Minister David Liba'i signed the recommendation to Hayim Herzog to free Shabtay Kalmanovich. The official said it came up when Liba'i met with Herzog yesterday. The logic at the highest level of the Justice Ministry: If Israel can reply positively to a Russian request, the United States should be able to take the same kind of step toward Israel.

Until January 20th, the day Bill Clinton became U.S. President, requests by members of Knesset to raise the issue in the plenum were turned down altogether by the Rabin government. In those days, the pressure was to call upon George Bush to pardon Pollard in Bush's final days as president. On January 20th itself and since then, the issue has come up, but the Pollard lobby in the Knesset says the prime minister turned down a request by 13 MK's to meet with him in his office on the issue in advance of his trip to the U.S. [end recording]

A Foreign Ministry official has said nothing could be more absurd than to link the Kalmanovich case with that of Jonathan Pollard. Speaking to reporter Jack Katzenell, the official said: By what flight of the imagination could the two issues be linked? Officials told our reporter Israel has in the past made representations on behalf of Pollard on a purely humanitarian basis and may do so again in the future, but without any connection to the Kalmanovich case.

Protest Lodged Against UNRWA Observer Over Rafah Incident

TA1003170193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Foreign Ministry today lodged a complaint against UNRWA [UN Works and Relief Agency] observer Katherine Striker. UNRWA's director in Gaza was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, where Yohanan Bein, deputy director general in charge of the International Organizations Department, handed him the complaint. Striker had witnessed the murder of Yehoshu'a Weissbrod near Rafah, but abstained from summoning help.

Soldier in Critical Condition After Nazareth Stabbing

TA1103055093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Reserve soldier David Libskeind is in critical but stable condition after being stabbed last night in Nazareth. Police are conducting a wide-scale search for the two men who attacked him. Reporter Miryam Herschlag has more details:

David Libskeind left his base in Nazareth just after 8 last night to buy a sandwich at a nearby grocery, a store frequented by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. According to witnesses, as he walked back a car pulled up and two young men got out and stabbed him in the stomach. Libskeind tried to escape, but they chased him. The reserve soldier fired his Uzi submachine gun, and the attackers fled in their car. A passing cab picked up the soldier, who had multiple stab wounds in the back and stomach, and brought him to the Anglican Hospital in Nazareth. After undergoing surgery in Nazareth, David Libskeind was brought in critical condition to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. This morning he is on a respirator in intensive care. His condition is listed as stable. The 24-year-old Libskeind is himself from Upper Nazareth, the Jewish community adjoining the predominantly Arab city of Nazareth.

Police and Border Police are conducting a wide-scale manhunt for the attackers. They have set up dozens of roadblocks in the area and have arrested 24 Arabs from the territories found in the area. They are also holding four Arab Israelis: three from Umm al-Fahm and one from Nazareth. But the search continues, particularly for a car which crashed through a roadblock last night and which is believed to be the vehicle which carried the two attackers.

Rehovot Resident Stabbed by Arab Worker

TA1103074793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] A 49-year-old resident of Rehovot was stabbed this morning. He is in moderate condition. An Arab worker who worked in the victim's orchard is believed to be the assailant, and the police have launched a manhunt to capture him.

Our correspondent Yehudit Yehezqeli reports that the victim attempted to drive himself to the hospital and got as far as Bilu Junction before he felt faint and asked soldiers to help him. Before losing consciousness, he said that the worker had stabbed him.

Bilateral Trade Agreement Signed With Turkey

TA1003155893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Mar 93 p 41

[Report by Shlomo Abramovich]

[Text] Israel and Turkey signed the first trade agreement of its kind earlier this week in Istanbul. An Israeli-Turkey chamber of commerce to enhance bilateral trade relations and mediate between manufacturers and consumers in both countries was established as part of the agreement. This is the second economic agreement between the two countries following one to promote tourism signed last June.

Representatives of 14 Israeli technology, electronics, and agriculture firms met with representatives of Turkish companies immediately after the signing ceremony to discuss future agreements.

The ceremony was attended by Uri Gat Gutman, Israel's deputy consul, who was the main initiator and promoter of the agreement. On behalf of Israel, the agreement was signed by 'Uzi Netan'el, the chairman of the Exports Institute's board of directors who also represented the Union of Chambers of Commerce. On behalf of Turkey, it was signed by Yalim Erez, director of TOBB, the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, which comprises 700,000 companies.

The clauses of the agreement provide for the promotion of mutual trade, industrial and technological cooperation, regular meetings of businessmen from both countries, aid to diverse business delegations, and the removal of obstacles for mutual trade.

After the ceremony, Gutman and Netan'el said the strengthening of commercial relations with Turkey is based on a mutual recognition of needs. They nevertheless noted that Israel considers Turkey an important stepping-stone to the former Soviet republics to the east of Turkey.

Exports to Turkey in 1992 totaled $113 million, while imports totaled $79 million.

Abu-Jabir on Talks Invitation; PLO's Qaddumi Comments

JN1103073293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan said Wednesday [10 March] it would wait for an Arab coordination meeting to decide whether to accept an invitation to attend a ninth round of Middle East peace talks.

"Our response to the invitation will be announced after the meeting of foreign ministers expected to be held in Damascus after the 'Id [al-Fitr—22-25 March], where we will coordinate with the other Arab parties," Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Dr. Abu-Jabir received the invitation from American and Russian envoys in Amman earlier Wednesday. Reports from Washington have said the U.S. and Russia want the talks to resume on April 20.

The Palestinians and Arab states involved in the peace talks expect to meet in Damascus after the Holy Month of Ramadan ends in about two weeks to discuss the negotiations.

His Majesty King Husayn said in a recent television interview that Jordan was committed to the peace process, but it would be difficult for Jordan to return to the talks without the Palestinians.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, had intensive talks Tuesday with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', focusing on the peace process.

After a three-hour session, Mr. Qaddumi told reporters that his talks with Mr. al-Shar' centerd on how to coordinate positions among the Arab parties involved in the peace process and to solve the problem of almost 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel to Lebanon on Dec. 17.

"We have said, and we now repeat, that the United States should pressure Israel to be committed to the principles on which the political settlement was based," Mr. Qaddumi said. [passage omitted]

Buwayz: Decision on Invitation After Arab Meeting

NC1003183693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Lebanon today received a U.S.-Russian invitation to attend the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington. The U.S. and Russian ambassadors to Lebanon handed the invitation to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this afternoon. Buwayz also received an invitation to attend the multilateral talks. Buwayz said Lebanon had received two invitations, the first concerns the bilateral talks in Washington between 20 April and 6 May. He said Lebanon's decision will be made after a meeting in Damascus of the countries concerned with the negotiations. He said the second invitation is to attend the multilateral talks, which Lebanon has reservations about participating in them. He said:

[Begin recording] I have received an invitation to attend the coming round of bilateral talks, which could be held in Washington between 20 April and 6 May. Since the beginning of the talks, we have been committed to a unified Arab stand. We have always preferred to make our decisions after a coordination meeting of Arab foreign ministers is held. Accordingly, we, the Lebanese officials, will discuss the contents of the invitation and will call for an Arab coordination meeting during which the final decision could be made. [end recording]

Shammas Comments on Resignation Report

NC1103071493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] There have been questions about the reasons behind Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas' request to be relieved of his responsibilities, given that he heads the Lebanese delegation to the peace negotiations.

Our diplomatic correspondent has learned that Shammas submitted his resignation letter directly to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, and not to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who opposed discussion of the letter by the Council of Ministers yesterday.

The Voice of Lebanon asked Shammas about the issue this morning. He said that the matter is now in the hands of the Council of Ministers, which makes the decisions. He refused to comment on the issue, because there are rules governing his diplomatic status. But in response to a question, he said: How do you expect me to negotiate with Israel when I do not know what to say, when to speak, or with whom to consult?

New Organization Claims Attack on Kuwaiti Embassy

NC1103065993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] A hitherto unknown organization, calling itself the Revolutionary Outburst Movement [Harakat al-Intilaqah al-Thawriyah], yesterday claimed responsibility for throwing a bundle of dynamite at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut.

The organization said the attack is a warning to Arab traitors, especially the al-Sabah clan [ruling family in Kuwait], which expelled the Palestinians residing in Kuwait.

Unknown Organization Claims Attack on Embassy

JN1103075493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Following the hurling of a stick of dynamite at the Kuwaiti Embassy courtyard in Beirut, which did not cause any casualties, an unknown organization called the Arab Revolutionary Resurgence Movement [harakat al-madd al-thawri al-'arabi] claimed responsibility for the incident. A movement statement, which was given to the media, said that this explosion is a warning and an affirmation of strikes against the traitorous Arab regimes which carried out killings, arrests, and mass expulsions of Palestinian Arab people in Kuwait.

Three Reported Killed Near Tyre

NC1103070193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Three Palestinians were killed and nine wounded yesterday in clashes among warring Palestinian factions in southern Lebanon.

Two of the Palestinians were killed in Shabriha camp, 4 km north of Tyre, and the third was killed in al-Qasimiyah camp, also near Tyre.

Fatah Officer Killed

NC1003173893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Unidentified gunmen assassinated Major Ahmad Muntasir, a Jordanian citizen in the Fatah Movement, in al-Qadisiyah camp in Tyre at 1230 today. He was taken to the Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre with several bullets in his body.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud Pledges To Accept Pact, Condemns Hekmatyar

BK1103051793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0507 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] KABUL, March 11 (AFP)—Afghan Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud has accepted a peace agreement under which radical mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar will become prime minister but nevertheless continued to pour scorn on his arch-rival.

"He is a madman and his followers are fools," Mas'ud told a press conference late Wednesday [10 March] but he added he would cooperate with the leader of the Hezb-e-Eslami faction in the interests of the country and Islam.

"He is a man without religion, who belongs not even to a sect," Mas'ud went on. "He is a joke."

Under the terms of a ceasefire signed Sunday in Islamabad, Hekmatyar is to become prime minister while Borhanoddin Rabbani, former leader of Mas'ud's Jami'at-e-Eslami group will remain as president for 18 months.

Although the defence minister and the Hezb leader have shared a long history of bloody animosity, Mas'ud insisted that during the 14 years of Jihad or holy war against the former communist regime Hekmatyar had opposed all other rivals.

"Hekmatyar has always stood fiercely against any person or organisation which might hinder him from gaining power," Mas'ud said.

Mas'ud, the moderate Tajik from the north and Hekmatyar, an ethnic Pashtun hardliner from the south, put Kabul through nearly seven weeks of internecine fighting before the resulting stalemate forced them to settle their differences at the conference table in Islamabad.

The defence minister, whose January offensive failed to halt Hekmatyar's rocket bombardment of the capital, said he was confident that the ceasefire would hold and that all problems would be solved by negotiation and mutual understanding.

"Even if negotiations do not reach a fruitful conclusion we will not be the first side to start the fighting," Mas'ud said.

Mas'ud's future in the government remains unclear as Hekmatyar has said he will assert his right as prime minister to choose a new cabinet.

But a top aide to the defence minister said Tuesday that he was confident that Rabbani would reject any moves to oust the Jami'at's top military commander from the defence portfolio.

Hezb-e-Eslami Regrets Mas'ud Remarks

BK1103105693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 11 (AFP)—A spokesman for Afghan prime-minister designate Golboddin Hekmatyar Thursday [11 March] regretted "provocative" remarks by Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud about Hekmatyar.

"Whatever Mas'ud said against prime minister Golboddin Hekmatyar at his press conference on Wednesday shows his moral capacity," said Qaribur Rehman Sa'id, speaking by telephone from the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Mas'ud, while accepting Sunday's Afghan peace accord which gave the premiership to Hekmatyar, called the 44-year-old Hezb-e-Eslami leader "a madman" and his followers "fools."

The defence minister also said that Hekmatyar had no religion and that he "has always stood fiercely against any person or organisation which might hinder him from gaining power."

Aides to Mas'ud, a bitter opponent of Hekmatyar, said later Thursday that the remarks had been off the record, although this was not made clear at the press conference.

Hekmatyar and the other seven Afghan leaders who signed the peace agreement in Islamabad have been on a visit to Saudi Arabia since Monday at the invitation of King Fahd.

"Our Islamic ethics do not allow us to use filthy language against any one," said Sa'id, recalling a statement to that effect by Hekmatyar himself.

The spokesman said "such provocative words are put into his (Mas'ud's) mouth by the communist elements as they are now isolated and have lost their credibility within the Afghan nation."

"These elements have lost the political game and they will face similar military defeat if they impose a war," Sa'id said, without naming any individual or group.

The peace accord postponed the divisive issue of formation of a cabinet, leaving it to Hekmatyar to choose the lineup in consultation with President Borhanoddin Rabbani and leaders of the various Afghan factions. Before his departure for Saudi Arabia, Hekmatyar said the question of the allocation of the Defence Ministry in the new government would be resolved amicably.

An aide to Mas'ud said in Kabul Tuesday that he was confident that Rabbani would reject any move to oust the Jam'iat-e-Eslami party's ace military commander from the Defence Ministry.

'Quiet' Reported in Kabul 10 Mar

LD1003125793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Kabul was quiet between Tuesday [9 March] afternoon and noon today with people leaving their houses to buy food, an IRIB correspondent reports from Kabul.

The government said 22 people were killed and 150 wounded in yesterday's fighting, our correspondent reports.

Meanwhile, following the signing of a peace agreement between the Afghan leaders, the value of the afghani went up in the currency markets of the Pakistani town of Peshawar. [passage omitted]

The leaders of Afghanistan's rebel groups signed a peace agreement in Islamabad this week.

India

Pakistan Proposal To Discuss Terrorism Viewed

BK1103102993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 1 Mar 93 p 8

[Editorial: "An Intriguing Move"]

[Text] The Union Home Minister, Mr S. B. Chavan, has disclosed in the Lok Sabha that a representative of the Pakistan government had met him to extend an invitation to visit Islamabad for a discussion on terrorism. The idea, he said, was being considered. He referred to this matter when he was making out a case for the extension of President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months. The Pakistani invitation is curious. What Islamabad may be up to will have to be examined thoroughly before the Government accepts it. In principle, an India-Pakistan dialogue on any of,the vexed issues between the two countries should be welcome. But the context of each move for bilateral talks on any of these issues will have to be properly assessed. Mr Chavan, for instance, has himself underlined, in the very statement in question, the wide ramifications of Pakistani involvement in terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. According to him, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar were all linked in providing training and arms to insurgents in the north-eastern States, too. It is, therefore, imperative that New Delhi has an adequate enough understanding of the reasons that may have prompted Islamabad to invite Mr Chavan for talks with his Pakistani counterpart on such a vital issue.

The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries have already had exchanges on strengthening border vigil to check militants' infiltration into India. At lower official levels, too, the question has cropped up from time to time. All this has been of no avail. If there were the slightest indication of Pakistan reviewing its whole approach to the Kashmir question, elevation of bilateral talks on terrorist activities to the level of Home Ministers could have made sense. But Pakistan's continuing bid to keep alive the Kashmir issue as a pan-Islamic one contradicts any assumption of a conciliatory mood on its part. This in fact makes the invitation to Mr Chavan all the more intriguing.

One important change has occurred, of late in regard to the Kashmir conflict. That is the strong denunciation by all the major Western powers of terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab. They have also made it clear that they have good reason to suspect Pakistani complicity in the terrorist threat to India. Has this had a wholesome impact on the government in Islamabad? Washington's sustained pressure on Pakistan to desist from aiding anti-Indian terrorists has particularly dismayed Islamabad. Is Pakistan now trying to put a gloss on its basic grab-Kashmir policy in the hope of humouring the Americans? In devising its response to the Pakistani invitation to the Home Minister, New Delhi will do well to take all these factors fully into consideration.

AIADMK Decides To Withdraw Support of Government

BK1103031893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Congress-I MP's from Tamil Nadu met the party president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi and discussed the situation arising out of the AIADMK's [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's] decision to snap its ties with the Congress-I. They informed Mr. Rao that they will abide by any decision of the party high command in the matter.

A delegation of the AIADMK parliamentary party met the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] and submitted a letter informing him of the party's decision to withdraw support to the Narasimha Rao government. This was stated by the party leader in the Lok Sabha, Mr. P.G. Narayanan.

Reacting to the breaking up of the alliance between the Congress and the AIADMK, the Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, said there is nothing surprising about the development.

Dalai Lama Welcomes PRC Plan for Tibet

BK1103055593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0521 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 11 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama has welcomed China's recent designation of Tibet as a "special economic zone" but expressed skepticism about Chinese intentions.

"China's recent announcement of turning the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region into a special economic zone is, in principle, welcome," the Dalai Lama said in a

statement commemorating the 34th anniversary of the abortive 1959 uprising in Tibet against Chinese rule.

"However, there are reasons to fear the long term impact of the new Chinese policy on the survival of the cultural identity of the Tibetan people and on the environment of Tibet," the Tibetan spiritual leader added Wednesday [10 March].

"If the best interests of the Tibetan people are not kept in the forefront, there is a real danger that this policy will only promote and intensify the transfer of more Chinese into Tibet," the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize laureate said.

"This will further reduce the Tibetans into an insignificant minority in their own country, thus completing the thorough colonization of Tibet," he said.

In his statement, the Tibetan spiritual leader also called on the Chinese authorities to begin a "genuinely meaningful dialogue" on Tibet and denounced "merciless repression of the slightest political dissent."

The Dalai Lama, who fled to India after the 1959 uprising in his homeland, heads a government-in-exile based in the Indian hill town of Dharamsala which no country recognises. More than 100,000 Tibetan exiles live in India.

About 150 Tibetans were arrested here Wednesday when they tried to march to the Chinese embassy to deliver a petition addressed to Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Tibetans Arrested During Anti-Chinese Protest

BK1003100493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi, March 10 (AFP)—About 150 Tibetans chanting anti-Chinese slogans were arrested as they attempted to march to the Chinese Embassy here Wednesday [10 March] to commemorate the abortive 1959 uprising in their homeland.

Dozens of policemen herded the demonstrators into waiting buses as they left a school for Tibetan refugees to deliver a petition addressed to Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, witnesses said.

Before leaving the school, the protesters doused with kerosene 34 Chinese flags—one for each year since the uprising—and set them on fire.

They chanted slogans denouncing Beijing and unfurled banners reading "Tibet is China's Kuwait" and "Stop Chinese Population Transfer in Tibet."

They sang the Tibetan national anthem, observed two minutes of silence and listened to a message from the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader.

In a statement Tuesday, the Dalai Lama called on China to make a "genuinely meaningful proposal" on Tibet and said previous offers to resolve the Tibetan question were disappointing.

The Dalai Lama, who heads a government-in-exile based in the Indian hill town of Dharamsala, urged the six million Tibetans to dedicate themselves to achieving independence for Tibet.

"I call upon every Tibetan to renew our dedication until we have regained our rights and freedom," said the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The Dalai Lama fled to India after the 1959 uprising. More than 100,000 Tibetan exiles live in India.

UN Representative Cites Stand on Disarmament

BK1103102093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] India is firmly opposed to any attempt by regional organizations to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries in the name of human or minorities rights. The objection was raised in the UN Charter Committee by India's representative, Mr. Suresh Chandra Chaturvedi. He said that regional solutions are not appropriate for such global issues like disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation.

Minister Briefs House on Temple Destruction

BK1003093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that 616 temples and cultural centers were destroyed or damaged in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and England after 6 December last year. In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said that 350 temples or cultural centers were damaged in Bangladesh, 244 in Pakistan, 18 in the United Kingdom, and four in Afghanistan. He said the government of India has condemned the destruction and damage of the temples in these countries. India has also expressed her concern over communal incidents affecting Indians in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The minister said heads of our missions in Kabul and London have taken up the matter with the appropriate authorities.

Home Minister Voices Concern Over Recent Atrocities

BK1103104493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the Lok Sabha today that the government will take firm action in cases of atrocities against the scheduled castes and tribes. Sharing the members concern over the large number of such incidents in the country, he said the government views the matter seriously and will ensure that those who commit such crimes are tried by courts of law. Members expressed serious concern over the incidents and asked the government to ensure the safety and security of the weaker sections.

Raising the issue during the zero hour, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, drew the attention of the government to some recent cases in Mathura, Kanpur, and other places. The Home Minister assured him that he will inquire into these incidents.

The government today reiterated its commitment in the Lok Sabha to bring to book those who committed atrocities during the recent riots. In reply to a question, the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, said that action will be taken against all those who had committed atrocities on any section including women, children, and the weaker sections. He informed the House that measures have been taken to provide relief to the families of the victims.

Iran

Envoy to France Criticizes European Parliament

NC1103075293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Paris ['Ali] Ahani met yesterday with the deputy speaker of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. During the meeting, bolstering ties and contacts between the European Parliament and Iran was discussed.

During the meeting, Ahani criticized the European Parliament's approach to matters concerning Iran. He said: On the basis of incorrect information, which it receives from some spiteful sources, the European Parliament issues biased resolutions against Iran and thus casts doubt on the Parliament's credibility.

The European Parliament's deputy speaker said: I can understand Iran's position. The process that prevails in the European Parliament, however, has made it impossible to receive the viewpoints and stands of the country concerned at the parliament's general sessions. He also called for the exchange of visits between Iran and the European Parliament to become better acquainted with the situation in Iran and to overcome existing misunderstandings.

UN Human Rights Resolution 'Politically Motivated'

LD1103174893 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Vienna, March 11, IRNA—Sirus Naseri, Iran's ammbassador to the United Nation's office in Geneva called the resolution passed in Geneva against Iran accusing it of human rights abuses "politically motivated". In an interview with IRNA Thursday [11 March], Naseri wonders why the west not even for once took any action during the toppled Shah's western orientated reign to condemn the tortures and the human right abuses.

"The U.S. and its allies should not forget the support they gave Iraq, both material and technological to bomb innocent civilians with chemical agents causing a painful death to thousands", Naseri asked. Are these not the same states now playing a double-standard game and showing themselves concerned with the execution of a number of drug smugglers?

Naseri went on: "The west should either prove us otherwise or accept resposibility for deaths and suffering caused by its actions during Iraqi imposed war (1980-88)", he said. "The U.S knows Islamic movements around the world are not another 'ism' and will not disolve like communism or other sources of threats to western interests, therefore it tries to isolate Iran politically and economically in order to stop Islam from influencing every-day life" the ambassador said.

Pakistani, Afghan Leaders' Visit Postponed

NC1103065593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has announced that the visit by the Pakistani prime minister and the jehadi leaders of Afghanistan to Tehran, which was to take place today, has been postponed. Citing the Pakistani ambassador in Tehran, the Foreign Ministry has said that the trip was postponed because the visit by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Afghan delegation to Saudi Arabia has been extended.

The Foreign Ministry has said that the Pakistani prime minister and the Afghan jihad leaders will arrive in Tehran on Saturday [13 March].

Ministry Asked To Protest Nuclear Arms Accusations

LD1003184593 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 10 IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES here Wednesday [10 March] called on the Foreign Ministry to make "official protest" to those third world countires which are still accusing Iran of trying to get access to atomic weapons.

The daily, in its editorial, also urged the ministry to prevent a situation where others use Iran as a means to resolve their own problems and difficulties.

It referred to last Monday's report of British television which claimed that Iran was still trying hard to get access to atomic weapons and that last year the country was to purchase needed materials for the manufacture of atomic weapons from Kazakhstan and was to enjoy the technological support of the republic.

"Apparently, the issues related to Iran's arms have become the major tools of international propaganda launched by powerful countries selling western arms. At any rate, in order to get rid of the world's stagnant arms

market, the arms sellers require a pretext, and today Iran is the best choice for them."

Pointing to some third world countries including Kazakhstan, the paper said a number of these countries, which have lost their credit and geographical status after collapse of world's bipolar system, endeavored to have a superficial proximity to Iran and expressed willingness to sell some goods and technology to the country after the West expressed intense concern on Iran's power and presented it as a form of "allergy."

"By mentioning the first piece of news to the effect that they were on the threshold of an important deal with Iran, they endeavor to resolve their problems with the West by making a pawn of an unreal and imaginary deal with Iran."

Portrayal of Iran as 'Terrorist' Country Viewed

NC1103121993 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 4 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Adventurism Against Iran Until When?"]

[Text] French daily FRANCE-SOIR has surveyed the blast in New York's World Trade Center that has left 5 people dead and tens of others wounded under the title of "The Manhattan Blast and Iran as the Prime Suspect" and has accused Iran of involvement. This is while none of the high-ranking U.S. security officials following up New York's February 26 blast has made such a claim. How is it then that a French daily suddenly makes such a claim? What goal do such media pursue?

Actually, over the last 14 years following the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, a group of the Western mass media run by the Zionists have made utmost effort to depict Iran as a violent and terrorist country. They have endeavored to stir the Western public opinion against Iran. This has been escalated over the past three months.

Especially after Bill Clinton assumed the rein of power in the U.S. some Western wings which go for continued U.S. hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran are worried that due to the novel situation in the U.S. and promises given to the American people, Clinton would demand a basic change in the U.S. system including the foreign policy.

These groups are mainly comprised of two parts: First, the Zionists which have relatively powerful lobbies inside the U.S. government system and which have over these years acted as an inciting power for the growth of U.S. hostility against Iran. Second, the anti-revolutionary Iranian groups, especially the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] which, through the financial donations it has received from Saddam Husayn, tries to boost U.S. hostility and antagonism toward Iran. To have this goal fulfilled both groups use a common method.

Firstly, by lobbying among the top-ranking U.S. officials, especially by establishing influence over the members of the U.S. Congress and Senate and the foreign policy-makers, they have paved the ground for continued hostility. Secondly, the Zionists having the needed tools were more successful and endeavored to use the mass media, especially the dailies and the magazines, to depict Iran as a terrorist country for the Western masses. In this case, the masses would pressure the policy-makers to show hostility. Headlines such as that of the FRANCE-SOIR daily should also be considered in this light.

The principal question is, however, this: To what extent is President Clinton aware and informed of these facts and to what extent does he have the courage to shatter and do away with such a situation and milieu?

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Open Majles Session

LD1003134393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The Majles held its last open session of the year [year ending 21 March] today. A bill was passed in principle for membership of the minister of roads and transport in the supreme council of city planning and architecture. A bill was also passed in principle for the transformation of the national ordinance organization, but the details were voted down after discussion.

Addressing the session, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri called on the ever-vigilant people of the country to actively participate in Jerusalem Day demonstrations to express their hate of the usurping Zionists and Israel and to expresses their support for the innocent people of Palestine. [passage omitted]

Referring to the propaganda of the world arrogant powers against the Islamic Republic of Iran as a psychological war, he stressed that the powerful Iranian nation does not fear psychological wars and will continue to move in the path of the sacred aims of the Islamic system.

Expressing regret over the recent conflicts between the various groups in Afghanistan, he said these conflicts are a struggle for power and that struggle for power has no place in the school and system of Islam. He hoped that the agreements recently reached between the Afghan leaders will establish peace and security in that country. The head of the legislature also called on the cabinet and the Foreign Ministry to spare no effort in helping establish peace in that country.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri condemned the silence of international organizations and human rights circles over the crimes of Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said it is obvious that the world arrogant powers and America are seeking to create an opportunity for the Serbs to massacre the Muslims. We must not delay the prevention of the Serbian crimes and the defense of the innocent Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina. We therefore call on the leaders

of Islamic countries, Muslim nations and the Islamic Conference Organization to seriously and practically defend the innocent in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

A letter signed by over 190 deputies announcing their participation in the Jerusalem Day demonstrations was read at today's session. The letter says we, the deputies of the Islamic consultative assembly, think it is our duty to revive the tradition set by Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran—may he be allowed into God's paradise. In step with the esteemed leader of the Islamic Republic and the selfless Iranian nation we will clench our fists and we will chant: Death to Israel and Death to America. We believe that the destruction of Israel and the fall of world arrogance, led by America, is possible, and that America is wasting time trying to misuse every opportunity against Islam and the Muslims.

Shopkeepers Protest Markets Competing With Bazaars

LD1103145593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Yesterday, 30 shopkeepers gathered in front of the governor's office in the city of Saveh to protest the establishment of a market for the direct supply of goods.

The shopkeepers said the supply of clothes, shoes, and bags in the market was not previously announced and will reduce the sales of the shops that carry these items.

The governor of Saveh said the gathering of the group was unreasonable and told the four representatives in his office that creating competition between the shops to prevent price increases is a government policy, and we welcome any move that would benefit the people in this regard.

IRNA quoted the head of the local trade department as saying that the setting up of the market for the direct supply of goods was announced earlier in the press and that most applicants have been provided with stalls.

He said: Popular response is one of the main reasons for setting up the markets. There are no limits to the temporary, seasonal, and permanent markets that can be set up in various towns in accordance with the exhibition law. The markets will continue to balance the prices in the bazaar.

The Saveh market, which has 30 stalls, will continue for 10 days. Similar markets were held in the months of Shahrivar and Bahman.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Afghan Peace Accord, Cease-Fire Violations

BK1003161093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan believes that there exists a political consensus among all Afghan factions on the current cease-fire. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen at a briefing in Islamabad today that the Afghan leaders sincerely desire to work out an action plan to save the country from further destruction. About the cease-fire violations in Kabul, the spokesman said the ongoing fighting does not mean that the cease-fire has failed. Local commanders commit such mistakes.

Answering another question, the spokesman said the Islamabad talks were between the leaders of Afghan organizations. Afghan Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was well represented by President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, who is also a party head. General Rashid Dostam's representative was also kept fully apprised about the talks.

The spokesman said Pakistan has received messages of support and congratulations from various countries on the conclusion of the Afghan accord. These countries include the United States, China, and Jordan. He said that support extended by friends in connection with Pakistan's efforts for establishing peace in Afghanistan has proved a great source of strength.

Paper Warns of Possible U.S. 'Acts of Hostility'

BK1003140993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 Mar 93 p 6

[Editorial: "US Attempts To Indict Pakistan"]

[Text] Two terrorist incidents gave Americans an opportunity to focus attention on Muslims as the enemy that the US now urgently needs. The senseless murder of two CIA men and the blast under the New York World Trade Centre were, it is alleged, the work of Muslims, one a Pakistani and the other an Arab. In this way America has been able to point to Muslims as enemies of America. An almost hysterical hue and cry has started and US police are gathering evidence that will lead to the conviction of some Muslims for both these acts of terrorism.

American perceptions regarding these incidents are linked with the attempts of the US government to prove its case against Pakistan and to enable it to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. This sinister move to collect or concoct evidence against Pakistan must be taken seriously since it will be considered justification enough for America to take what military action against Pakistan that it pleases. The US may also resort to other acts of hostility to weaken our economy and cripple our defence capability.

Government must act promptly to refute all baseless charges levelled against it by America.